



THE TIMES



BEST FOR BOOKS

Roy Strong on
Royal gardens

PLUS
Roy Jenkins and
A.L. Kennedy

PAGES 34, 35



Waring: accusations
drove him to despair

By ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE widow of a Conservative MP who killed himself has come to the aid of a Labour MP who was so upset by his suspension from the party that he described himself as being suicidal.

Robert Waring, the MP for Liverpool West Derby since 1983, was so distraught by the way he was treated that he sent a handwritten note to Nick Brown, the Chief Whip, seeking an urgent meeting the same day because he felt "suicidal". Salt was rubbed into the wound when a junior whip told him he was

suspended. The veteran Labour MP was driven to despair after the party leadership, when it disciplined him, accused him of having covert links with a front organisation for the Bosnian Serbs.

A Commons investigation later rejected the charge and the owner of the company at the centre of the investigation is taking legal action against Mr Brown.

Mr Brown, who investigated the suicide of the Paisley South MP Gordon McMaster, has not replied to Mr Waring after two months. But Friends of Mr Waring were so concerned by his mental state that they contacted Janet Heddle, widow

of the Mid-Staffordshire Tory MP who killed himself in 1989. The following day, Mr Waring had dinner with Mrs Heddle, whom he had never met, and a mutual friend at a west London restaurant. Mrs Heddle then arranged for Mr Waring, a widow, to spend a week at the country home of friends.

A friend of Mr Waring's said last night: "They effectively arranged a safe house. It was the intervention of friends, who knew John Heddle's widow, which brought Bob to his senses. He felt shattered, but was able to talk it through with her."

Mr Waring, who was advised on the day he was disciplined to leave

HELLO PAPA!

Children
who come
out of the
woodwork

PAGE 15

TOMORROW

THE TOP
STATE
SCHOOLS
FOR GCSE

PAGE 15

DEFINITIVE
A LEVEL
LEAGUE TABLE
OF 750 SCHOOLS

Tory widow called in to comfort 'suicidal' Labour MP

Officers face court martial over expenses

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

UP TO six RAF officers are facing courts martial following an investigation by air force police into alleged expenses violations by airmen serving in Italy as part of the Bosnian peacekeeping operation.

The officers, mostly squadron leaders, the equivalent of major in the Army, will face charges next month when the six-month inquiry has been completed. A number of other officers are to be disciplined. The courts martial of such senior men would be unprecedented in the RAF. If found guilty, their promotion prospects could be seriously damaged, or they could even be discharged from the service.

RAF police were called in following the discovery that air force personnel serving tours of duty in support of Operation Resolution — the codename for Britain's contribution to the air operation over Bosnia-Herzegovina — were staying in expensive hotels in Venice for long weekends and charging the bills to the Ministry of Defence.

There were also allegations that some of the RAF men may have hired cars for their trips. The total claims under investigation were reported to be £350,000 although this was not confirmed by the MoD.

The RAF men had all been summoned to attend intelligence briefings at Nato's fifth

Tactical Air Force headquarters in Vicenza in northern Italy which generally lasted only half a day. However, instead of returning immediately to their operational base at Gioia del Colle in southern Italy, it was alleged they stayed for a further two or three days in £80-a-night four-star hotels in Venice and Florence, and included the bills on their expenses.

The alleged fraudulent claims were made over a period of two years when the RAF was playing a crucial role in monitoring the no-fly zone over Bosnia and providing close air support to the peacekeeping troops. RAF Tornados and Jaguars were involved in the operation.

In 1994, when the alleged fraudulent claims were first made, the RAF combat aircraft and crews were operating in support of the then United Nations-led peacekeeping mission. Now, after an investigation which has involved the questioning of more than 50 officers, the RAF police are in a position to recommend formal charges against the senior officers who are understood to have held supervisory posts and were responsible for signing the expense claims.

The officers who are now facing courts martial were also based at Gioia del Colle. When the investigation was originally confirmed by the

MoD in March this year, there were allegations that senior RAF officers had been sanctioning the extra hotel nights for some time.

Detectives from the RAF's Provost and Security Services were called in by air force accountants who suspected that hundreds of personnel had wrongly claimed their expenses. Although RAF personnel are still serving in Italy as part of the now Nato-led Bosnian peacekeeping operation, the procedures for expense investigation has taken a long time because the RAF

has difficulty in determining whether the travel unit had done so intentionally.

It is known that the acceptability of the claims was breached to many rules or guidelines, but they were not expected to break the rules, serve and be expected to pay for the extra time off.

None of the officers involved was accompanied by wives. Most of them were on four-month tour cycles.

They were expected to travel to Vicenza on a regular basis to be fully briefed by senior Nato intelligence officers and to meet their counterparts from America, Italy, France and The Netherlands.

A spokesman for the MoD said investigations were expected to be completed next month.

ST

GCSE results

A small increase in the GCSE pass rate meant another set of record results. But schools are still a long way from hitting government's target of getting more children to the old O-level standard. Page 6

Windfall winners go on a spending spree

By GEORGE STEVENS

HIGH STREET sales rose by 6.5 per cent in the year to the end of July, the fastest rate since mid-1988.

The rise — fuelled by windfalls from building societies converting to banks — brought fears in the City of interest rate rises, in spite of the 7 per cent cap on base rates imposed by the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee recently.

Both the Treasury and Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, sought to play down the spending boom.

Interest fears, page 23

BY GEORGE MERRELL

BRITAIN'S biggest cigarette maker, British American Tobacco, is planning to spend up to £250 million on buying a Formula One motor racing team. The idea is to get round the Government's proposed ban on tobacco sponsorship of sport by becoming the owner rather than sponsor.

The group, whose brands include Lucky Strike, said yesterday that it could either start up its own team from scratch or it could enter a joint venture with another team. It was not yet ready to announce details. A spokesman said: "We do not want to fuel speculation."

Danny, 11, bowls over tradition

By DAVID REVS JONES

THE image of crown bowls as the preserve of our more senior sportsmen is about to be challenged by an 11-year-old boy who has become the scourge of England's greens.

Danny May from Carlisle has signed up with the Professional Bowls Association (PBA) and hopes to compete in one of the sport's most prestigious televised tournaments — the International Open at Preston in October. The sport's authorities cannot remember a younger competitor but opinion is divided about this intrusion of youth.

Fred Inch, deputy secretary

of the English Bowling Association, said: "There is no age limit, and the more seniors we attract must be good for the future of the sport."

But another senior figure in the sport who will be competing in the tournament was not so charitable, saying: "Can you imagine the embarrassment of being beaten on television by a child. He will have to be stopped."

Danny says he does not intend to devote his life to bowls. His ambition is to become world champion by the time he is 22 — and so be the youngest ever — then retire

at 30 and apply his energies to the more lucrative golf circuit.

His father, David, who introduced him to the sport two years ago, insists that it is not a stunt. "Danny is a gifted athlete who is good at anything that involves a ball, and is deadly serious about his bowls. He has a natural delivery and an incredible understanding of tactics." He still, however, has time for the Spice Girls, designer clothes and fast food.

Danny won the Cumbria Under-18 singles title this month and reached the final of the Under-25 competition.

British troops seize Bosnian police stations

FROM TOM WALKER IN BANJA LUKA

HUNDREDS of British troops foiled a possible coup in Bosnia yesterday by taking control of all police stations in Banja Luka and seizing three lorries of weapons.

The unprettied Nato action was sanctioned after emergency talks between Biljana Plavšić, the Republika Srpska president, and international negotiators who agreed that the security situation in the town had deteriorated to such an extent that foreign intervention was unavoidable.

Diplomatic sources said that the 2,500 small arms discovered in the dawn raids could have been used in a coup attempt by Dragan Kijac, the Interior Minister loyal to Radovan Karadžić dismissed by Mrs Plavšić last month.

The operation encountered little resistance and Poles dismissed the weapons as "a few hunting rifles". But the Karadžić cabinet described her as a quelling and issued a statement saying: "These events can be considered a state coup. It is obvious that what is at work is an attempt at foreign occupation with the help of domestic collaborators."

Aleksandar Solženitsyn, page 16

GCSE Results

Ceasefire allows Ulster its quietest month in years

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA ceasefire, a month old yesterday, has given Northern Ireland probably its most peaceful four weeks since the present Troubles began 29 years ago.

Security sources said the IRA had almost completely shut its terrorist operations in advance of next month's peace talks though there was still some violence from breakaway loyalist and republican paramilitary groups.

No one is counting on the ceasefire lasting, but for the moment Northern Ireland is unusually relaxed. Security measures have been eased, tourists are returning and optimism within the business community is sky-high. "This month has been delightful and very, very relaxed," said Sam Cusheen, director of the non-sectarian group Families Against Intimidation and Terror (Fait).

To enhance the air of

normality, the Government is actively considering the transfer of 18 republican prisoners from English to Irish jails, it was disclosed yesterday.

Security sources said that, in contrast to its last ceasefire, the IRA had sharply curtailed most other operations, including punishment beatings, kidnapings and surveillance. Stopping punishment attacks is considered a litmus test of Sinn Fein's commitment to peaceful methods.

Only two republican punishment attacks have been recorded since July 20. During the previous 17-month ceasefire there were eight in the first month.

However, Fait said there was still intimidation, with the IRA giving several troublemakers 24 hours to leave the Province. The IRA also attempted to rob a Dublin bank last month. But security sources said that, on security

grounds alone, Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State, would have no reason to exclude Sinn Fein from the peace talks when she makes her formal decision next week.

The danger on the republican side comes from the Continuity Army Council, a tiny breakaway group that strongly opposes the ceasefire and planted a 1,000lb bomb outside a hotel in Fermanagh on July 31. "They've got the capacity to do very nasty things, but they're not threatening the ceasefire," a senior security source said. Loyalist paramilitaries have been more active, carrying out at least seven punishment attacks in the past month.

The only obviously sectarian killing since July 20 has been that of James Morgan, 16, a Catholic whose mutilated body was dumped in a pit full of cattle carcasses near his home in Co Down.

Mud in your eye: the actor Dustin Hoffman smearing mud on the pop singer Sting at the Turkish resort of Dalyan. Golu. The men and their families are on a cruise of the Aegean. Sting, an environmental campaigner, urged Turkey to keep coastal development in check to preserve the area's natural beauty



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Rise in badger numbers worries farmers

By MICHAEL HORNBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

FARMERS clashed with conservationists yesterday over a report showing a huge rise in the badger population over the past ten years. The finding has coincided with increased outbreaks of tuberculosis in cattle.

Wildlife campaigners hailed the rise in badger numbers as a victory for laws protecting the animals against persecution, but farmers said badgers were now out of control and should be culled in TB-infected areas.

Sir David Naish, the union's president, said: "In areas such as the South West, West Midlands and Wales, all the evidence points to diseased badgers infecting cattle with TB and causing farmers severe difficulties."

He added: "There is an urgent need for appropriate licences to be issued for the management of badgers where they are so abundant that they are leading to significant damage."

But Stephen Harris, of Bristol University's environmental sciences department, who wrote the report for the People's Trust for Endangered Species, said: "There was no proven link between the presence of badgers and TB in cattle."

"I do not think they need to be controlled," he said. "We are slowly starting to see the recovery of the badger from previous persecution, and a return to the sort of species diversity generally that we should have. Badgers can give TB to cattle, but no one knows how. Killing badgers in huge numbers in the past has not been an effective way of eliminating the disease in cattle."

The report estimates that the total number of badgers has risen by 77 per cent, from 250,000 to more than 440,000, since 1988 when the last comparable survey was done, also by Professor Harris.

Last year 471 new outbreaks of TB were reported, two thirds of them in the South and West of England. Figures from the Ministry of Agriculture next month are expected to show a sharp rise this year.

Pope is asked to name Mary as co-redemeer

By RICHARD OWEN AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

MANY of the eight million Roman Catholics in Britain and Ireland are supporting a worldwide appeal to the Pope to proclaim the Virgin Mary as a co-redemeer, placing her on a par with Jesus Christ.

A petition containing more than 40,000 signatures, organised in the United States, will be delivered to John Paul II at the Vatican by the end of the week — adding to the 4,340,000 signatures he has received in the past four years from 157 countries supporting the proposed dogma.

Fears are mounting among those who believe that proclaiming Mary as "co-redemptrix" or "mediatrix of all graces" would elevate her status beyond the honour accorded to her in many denominations and create a "Holy Quartet" in place of the Holy Trinity. Nicholas Coote,

an assistant general secretary of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said yesterday: "This makes me feel uneasy. All one can say is that there are certain parameters beyond which you may not go."

One of these is what is taught by Vatican Council II, comprising all bishops under the Pope. They were very

Daniel Johnson, page 16

emphatic indeed, saying that the maternal office of Mary towards human beings in no way obscures or diminishes the unique mediation of Christ. In 1 Timothy, it says there is one God and one mediator between God and man and that is Jesus Christ.

The Pope is a devotee of the Marian cult; he believes that she has saved his life on several occasions, most notably during the attempt on his life in St. Peter's Square in May 1981.

He may be tempted to have Mary elevated to co-redemeer while he can, given that he is 77 and in poor health. But while he can try to push doctrine in a particular direction, major doctrinal changes have to be made "by the whole Church", which in effect would mean a third Vatican Council.

The Second Vatican Council of 1962-65, although under pressure from devotees of Mary — including the current Pope, who attended in his former rank of Cardinal Wojtyla — confined itself to a restrained section on her: Paul VI, who was then Pope, declared her only to be Mother of the Church.



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Foreigners face ban on bringing in their servants

Ministers are to act swiftly to curb cruelty towards domestic staff from abroad, reports Richard Ford

WEALTHY foreigners could be barred from bringing servants to Britain under proposals being studied by ministers to curb ill treatment and improve the working conditions of domestic staff.

The Government is to act after complaints that servants are kept in conditions close to slavery and have been subjected to abuse and cruelty by their employers. Most of the victims are women from the Philippines, India, Bangladesh and Africa who live with their employers in London.

Mike O'Brien, the Immigration Minister, promised to introduce measures soon to tackle the exploitation of up to 20,000 domestic workers in Britain. He said: "I am very concerned by repeated allegations of ill treatment of domestic staff."

Domestic workers allowed temporary entry into Britain to work for their foreign employer. Of course, many of them are content but some of them have been subjected to ill treatment and a number of cases are quite appalling.

Measures being studied by Mr O'Brien and Home Office officials include withdrawing the 1980 concession that allows foreigners to bring their domestic servants with them.

Those who take advantage of the rule are often from Middle Eastern states who bring female Filipina, Indian and Nepalese domestic staff with them; and those from India, Bangladesh and African states who rely on their own nationals as servants.

There is also a growing number of British expatriates

who bring their foreign servants with them when they return to the UK.

The Home Office is also looking at letting foreign domestic workers change employers within a restricted category, or to give them access to an airline ticket home.

But there is official concern

that by allowing servants to leave their employers, it would become more difficult to keep control of the domestic staff in Britain.

Campaigners argue that the present system encourages staff to leave their job, change their identity and take other work illegally.

Mr O'Brien said that some domestic workers who had been subjected to physical abuse

had found it difficult to leave their employer because their passports had been removed

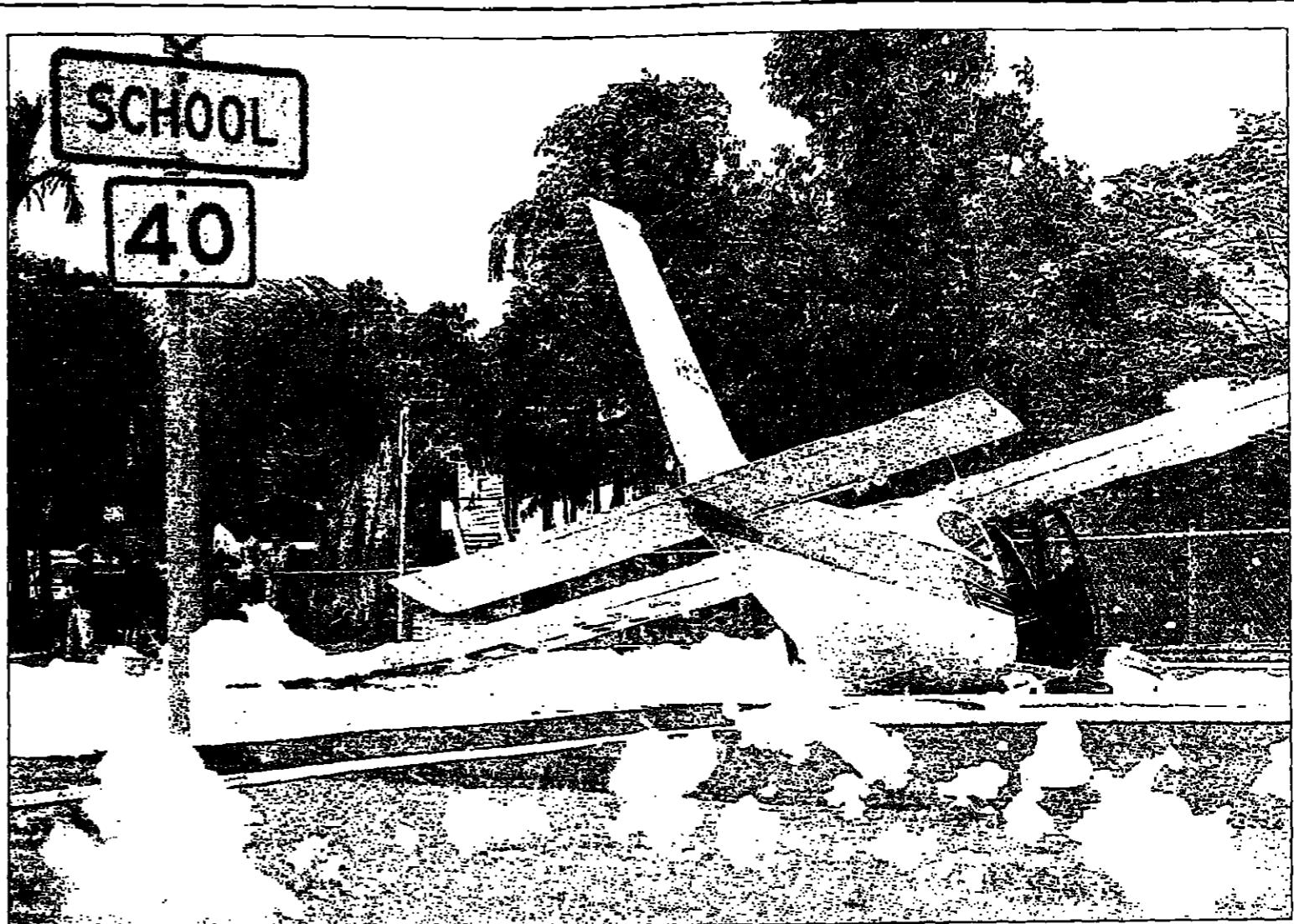
and they had no money.

He has held talks with Kalayaan, the campaign for justice for overseas domestic workers, about improving the conditions under which servants are employed and whether minimum terms of employment could be introduced.

A spokeswoman for Kalayaan said that domestic staff should be admitted as workers in their own right and not be tied to another individual. She said that they received many complaints from domestic servants about employers holding on to their passports, paying very low wages and making them work 18 hours a day, seven days a week.

"Some never get time off but cannot escape because they have no money or passport," she added.

A survey by the organisation last year found that 50 per cent of domestic servants slept on the floor, and 81 per cent were not paid regularly or received less than arranged. Others complained of being locked in the house when the employer went out.



The Cessna plane which crash-landed on a road near a school in Cairns, Queensland, and one of the passengers, left, being helped away

Detainees go on protest rampage

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

FIFTY immigration detainees went on the rampage yesterday to protest at the removal of an inmate from a detention centre run by Group 4.

Fires were lit in the library block at the centre and furnishings in other areas were smashed during the disturbances, which broke out early in the morning.

One hundred Thames Valley police, including some in full-riot uniform, were moved to Campfield House at Kidlington in Oxfordshire to ensure there was no mass break-out by the 184 detainees.

Police dogs and horses were stationed around the perimeter of the immigration detention centre as protests by a core of about 25 continued in the exercise yard throughout the day. A police helicopter

was also used. Two Group 4 staff were injured during the disturbances, which took place three months after a rooftop protest at the centre.

Dr Evan Harris, the Liberal Democrat MP for the area, said last night that the detention centre was a "powder keg" waiting to explode. Keeping asylum-seekers and immigration detainees cooped up was a recipe for disaster.

Dr Harris added that that something was very wrong with the way the centre was being run.

The present situation with detainees being removed to cells in Winslow Green jail, Birmingham, without notice and hordes of bored and depressed detainees milling around in centres without adequate access to help or advice is a recipe for disaster."



Britons pulled from plane crash on road

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A BRITISH couple escaped serious injury after the light aircraft in which they were flying crashed-landed on a main road beside a school playground in Australia.

Lee Medway, 29, an RAF corporal, and his wife Leigh-Anne, 30, from St Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan, were pulled from the smoking wreckage of the Cessna 172 by the headmaster and walked away almost unscathed. They were the only passengers on the Reef Air Tours plane which was forced to land on the road in Cairns, Queensland, after developing engine trouble.

The pilot, David Manners, who scrambled out of the plane before collapsing

against a fence, is being treated for head and back injuries but the couple were released from Cairns Base Hospital and allowed to return to their hotel.

A hospital spokesman said: "They are fine. It appears they were very lucky."

Mr Medway has served in the repair support squadron at RAF St Athan for seven years and the couple live in married quarters at the base. He was able to use his flying knowledge to give police a detailed description of what happened during the emergency shortly after take-off.

A police spokesman said: "They landed upright and collided with a street sign then the plane spun around and stopped abruptly on the road. It was incredible no one was killed. The pilot steered the plane through power lines and dodged the school."

Rescuers shut off the aircraft's fuel system and disconnected electrical systems to make it safe. Fuel was leaking out of the port wing.

Police said the Civil Aviation Safety Authority had taken possession of the aircraft and the Bureau of Air Safety Investigation had launched an inquiry.

Mr and Mrs Medway were back at the Colonial Club Resort in Cairns last night, where a spokeswoman said that they did not wish to be disturbed.

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GCSE results show pupils still have a long way to go

Education Minister says that the small rise is way off target for Britain's future success, report

John O'Leary and David Charter

THE second small rise in GCSE pass rates in three years left schools well adrift of the Government's qualifications targets yesterday, despite another set of record results.

Experts said the increase of less than half a percentage point in the proportion of papers reaching the equivalent of the old O level signalled the end of the grade inflation which undermined the examination's credibility in its early years. The pass rate for A* to C grades was 54.4 per cent.

The rise was the smallest since GCSE was introduced in 1988 with the exception of two

years ago, when coursework limits were imposed. The top two grades showed even smaller rises, with 3.6 per cent of entries attracting the A*.

Kim Howells, the Education and Employment Minister, said that candidates and their teachers should be proud of their achievements, but added: "We need many more of our young people achieving good results if we are to meet the very demanding standards we intend to set for national educational performance."

By 2000, ministers expect 85 per cent of 16-year-olds to have five high-grade GCSEs or

their equivalent, compared with about 70 per cent this year. The Government will set a separate target for 16-year-olds in the autumn, which officials said would require "further significant improvements".

Dr Howells expressed particular concern about a decline in English, where the pass rate dropped for the second successive year and entries were also down. While the number of 16-year-olds fell by 1.3 per cent, entries for English fell by more than 2 per cent.

Alan Smithers, the head of Brunel University's Centre for Education and Employment Research, said the GCSE pass rates appeared to have reached a plateau: "This is the sort of increase which carries credibility. Some of the previous swings were due to changes in the system."

Traditional subjects showed a slump in popularity, with fewer taking English, French, geography, history, mathematics, economics, chemistry, biology and physics.

In contrast, more than a million grades were awarded in the combined science paper for the first time. There had been hopes last year that single-science subjects were recovering, but subject experts said yesterday that decline was virtually guaranteed by a ruling that students at state



Girl may sue over failure

because she had also studied accountancy. The syllabus blunder allegedly came to light three days before the examination, during revision at Washington Business College, near Sunderland.

Miss Anderson, of Washington, said: "We put an awful lot of work into our studies for two years for nothing." Her mother, Carolyn, said: "We have consulted a solicitor and are considering legal action." The college said it had done everything it could to prepare its students for their examinations.

schools must either take the combined course or all three subjects separately. Only independent school students can choose one or two.

Entries were down 2.3 per cent for chemistry and 3.3 per cent in physics. Aside from about 70,000 entries in single

combined science, the total of a million grades for combined science reflects nearly 500,000 entries for the "double award" combined science course.

Caroline McGrath, of the Association for Science Education, said: "The vast majority of pupils are doing the double award. The A-to-C percentage reflects that the top ability range are doing the three separately."

Entries were up 15 per cent for computing, 9 per cent for physical education, 7.6 per cent for home economics and 4 per cent for drama.

Students to gain a qualification in subjects they are required to take until they leave school, such as PE and religious studies; to give them a year-long taste of an extra subject, such as Spanish or German; or to continue with a subject otherwise dropped at 14, such as geography or history.

The lower success rate may mean that students either took them less seriously than full GCSEs or treated them as an experiment with a certain

subject. Just 30,683 short-course results were recorded this year and a far greater number is expected in 1998 as the qualification begins to catch on in schools. The qualification can be taken over one year or in half the weekly time over two years.

The A-to-C pass rate of 93.4 per cent compares with 98.5 per cent at the full GCSE. Just under 40 per cent of short courses were passed at A* to C, against 54.4 per cent for full GCSE, and the 2.4

per cent A* on short courses was two thirds of the full course rate.

The most popular of the 12 "half-GCSE" subjects was religious education, taken by more than one third of this year's candidates, which had the second highest A-to-C pass rate of 47.1 per cent.

Music had the highest rate for top grades, with 11.8 per cent of the 152 candidates recording an A*, and 64.5 per cent a grade C or above.

Subject	No of Candidates	CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGE of candidates gaining grade or better					
		A*	A	B	C	D	E
Art and Design	221,543	5.5	18.6	36.5	62.1	80.1	91.5
	228,882	4.6	16.9	34.3	59.2	77.9	90.4
Business Studies	115,498	2.2	10.5	25.7	51.1	70.7	83.1
	114,648	2.1	9.8	23.8	49.1	69.5	81.9
Classical Civ	3,644	6.9	28.1	52.1	76.1	88.0	92.0
	3,447	6.0	25.9	49.9	74.1	87.7	89.5
Drama	85,500	3.5	19.5	45.4	69.6	84.5	93.6
	82,165	3.7	20.7	47.9	72.5	87.0	94.8
Economics	9,600	3.1	16.7	38.9	64.5	82.0	88.9
	11,127	2.9	15.4	36.0	61.7	79.6	87.7
English	649,559	2.0	10.7	29.5	58.0	78.0	90.4
	663,009	2.0	11.0	30.3	58.8	78.6	90.5
English Literature	492,678	2.8	13.7	35.5	62.2	80.7	91.7
	491,850	2.7	13.9	36.2	63.2	81.1	91.8
French	328,299	4.1	19.2	34.1	51.2	69.8	83.2
	345,590	4.4	19.2	33.7	50.9	69.1	82.6
Geography	290,201	3.9	16.4	34.9	56.1	71.9	85.1
	302,238	4.0	15.6	33.5	53.7	70.9	84.5
German	132,615	5.7	22.0	37.4	56.9	73.8	86.0
	133,177	5.3	21.3	37.0	55.6	72.2	85.1
Greek	947	50.7	76.9	88.4	96.0	99.0	99.4
	985	49.0	72.6	87.0	94.2	97.5	98.0
History	227,447	4.3	17.5	38.0	58.0	72.9	84.4
	232,011	4.1	16.6	36.8	57.0	72.0	83.8
Home Economics	104,863	1.8	9.6	24.5	44.1	64.9	82.5
	97,453	1.5	8.7	23.4	43.2	64.0	81.8
Humanities	35,562	2.2	9.6	23.2	42.1	61.6	78.9
	45,982	2.3	10.6	26.4	44.1	61.7	77.4
Computing	78,043	2.8	12.3	32.7	57.1	75.2	87.4
	66,134	2.7	11.4	30.3	55.3	73.3	85.8
Latin	11,673	26.8	59.2	79.8	91.4	96.5	97.4
	12,174	21.1	54.6	77.0	88.9	96.0	97.8
Mathematics	681,285	2.1	9.6	24.2	47.3	63.8	79.4
	682,330	2.1	9.1	23.4	46.7	63.1	78.8
Music	43,430	6.7	25.7	50.1	70.1	82.6	91.3
	42,122	6.9	24.9	49.3	69.1	82.0	90.9
Physical Education	87,106	4.4	13.5	28.6	47.5	72.6	88.6
	80,031	3.9	12.7	27.7	46.5	70.6	87.7
Religious Studies	118,545	4.9	17.0	35.7	56.7	71.8	83.4
	116,549	4.4	16.4	35.2	55.9	70.6	82.7
Science: Biology	47,743	10.8	35.0	65.1	84.5	92.9	97.3
	48,276	10.5	33.5	63.8	83.4	92.5	97.2
Science: Chemistry	45,797	13.7	35.6	64.9	86.8	94.2	97.7
	46,825	11.5	34.2	63.6	86.0	94.0	97.5
Science: Combined	1,007,640	8.5	10.4	28.0	48.4	70.2	86.4
	997,422	8.1	10.2	27.8	48.2	69.8	86.1
Science: Physics	44,892	13.6	36.2	65.7	86.2	93.8	97.1
	46,446	13.3	35.3	66.5	85.3	92.9	97.0
Social Science	4,397	1.1	5.6	18.8	38.3	59.5	75.1
	4,441	0.7	4.4	15.0	36.9	57.6	72.6
Spanish	43,826	8.4	24.4	49.9	59.3	73.1	83.9
	42,532	7.7	23.3	43.4	58.4	74.0	84.4
Technology	235,877	1.8	9.4	26.4	48.9	67.4	83.7
	247,821	1.7	8.9	25.5	45.8	66.1	82.6
Welsh 1st Lang	3,809	2.0	13.1	33.2	62.0	83.4	94.1
	3,844	1.7	12.0	31.4	60.1	86.3	96.6
Welsh 2nd Lang	7,438	10.8	27.0	40.7	59.8	76.4	88.1
	7,948	10.6	26.4	47.5	59.2	75.0	86.7
Welsh Literature	2,931	3.1	15.7	33.5	62.1	80.0	90.4
	2,940	3.9	13.8	30.7	57.8	78.2	88.6
Combined Subjects	31,011	1.1	8.0	26.0	49.6	69.7	85.1
	37,534	0.9	6.9	23.6	48.1	66.5	83.0
Other Mod Langs	29,934	17.8	47.3	64.0	76.4	87.1	93.3
	28,866	16.1	46.4	62.8	75.8	85.8	93.0
Other Sciences	22,484	2.9	10.7	26.1	49.5	70.4	84.8
	25,236	2.8	10.8	26.7	50.0	69.6	83.9
Other Soc Sciences	38,763	2.2	11.5	31.2	60.3	80.2	86.9
	41,559	2.0	11.6	31.8	61.2	80.1	86.3
Other Technology	22,662	2.4	11.5	25.1	44.0	62.8	79.0
	23,381	2.9	12.3	26.			

Rise in
badger
number
worries
farmers

Boy's death raises cliff-jumping fears

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A BOY has died after plunging from cliffs on to rocks in what police fear is a new craze of cliff-jumping in which teenagers urge each other to leap from great heights into the sea.

Coastal patrollers have reported seeing dozens of young boys jumping into the sea along the South Tyneside coast.

Neil Nicholson, 15, was found lying motionless in the water at the foot of cliffs at Frenchman's Bay, near South Shields, on Tuesday. A friend had dragged him from the water on to rocks and tried to save him, but Neil slipped back into the water while his friend tried to get help. He had been floating in the water for between ten and 15 minutes before firefighters and coastguards were able to reach him. He was pronounced dead on arrival at South Tyneside General Hospital.

Yesterday, South Shields police said that he had suffered a head injury, but they were still trying to establish



Peter Collins, left, has seen teenagers jumping at least 50ft at the spot where Neil Nicholson, right, died

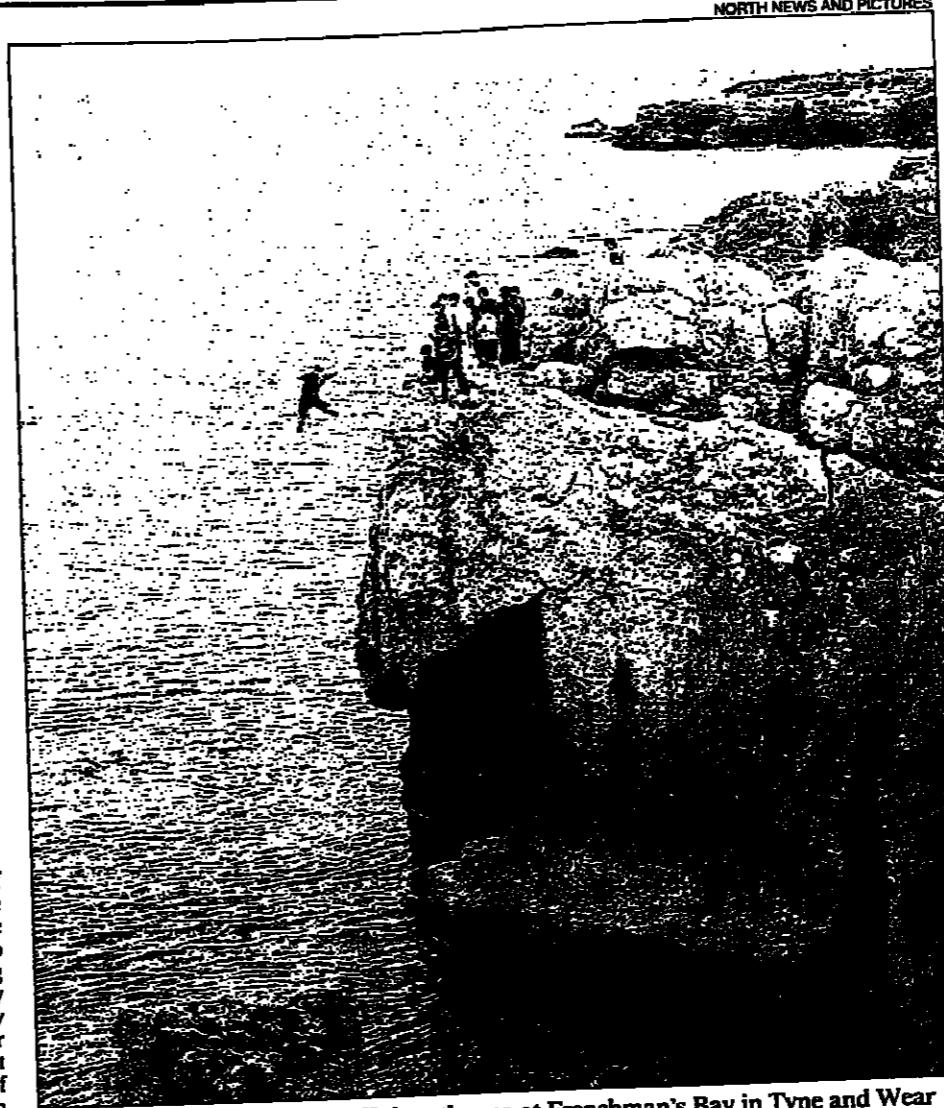
how he died. He was wearing a wetsuit, as was his friend. These are often worn by cliff-jumpers.

However, police said there was no evidence to suggest that Neil and his friend had been jumping into the water. Chief Inspector Gwynn Williams, of South Shields police, said: "As far as we are aware the boy had lost his footing and suffered a heavy blow to the head on the way down.

friend, but he already looked very bad. He then went to raise the alarm and get help." Last night, Neil's father, Norman, 42, said: "Neil was a typical teenage lad who liked to do things people of that age do. He was certainly not jumping off cliffs into the sea. He was climbing over a high rock when he lost his footing and slipped. But he was not soft up at the time. Neil was wearing a wetsuit because he had been bodysurfing.

"We are all devastated. His friend is very upset, too. I have been round to see him and he is in a terrible state. He did all he could to pull Neil out of the water."

Peter Collins, a National Trust warden in the area, said he had seen a number of teenagers plunging from the cliffs at Frenchman's Bay. He said the divers often seemed to be showing off to watching girls. "They may feel very macho, but they are extremely foolhardy because the water isn't very clear at the moment and they are in great danger of hurling into rocks lurking under the surface."



Youths leaping from the cliffs into the sea at Frenchman's Bay in Tyne and Wear

£80,000 is awarded in claims of Met assault

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THREE men won £80,000 in damages plus costs from the Metropolitan Police yesterday. They had claimed that in two separate incidents they were assaulted by officers who then fabricated evidence against them.

Mark Thomas, 27, who was arrested in 1990 at a demonstration over the death of a friend, accepted £30,000 in settlement of a civil claim against the police. Timothy Murphy, 33, and John Racz, 37, who were arrested in a pub incident, accepted £30,000 and £20,000 respectively.

The officers involved in both incidents denied the allegations against them and the Metropolitan Police has not accepted liability.

After a statement setting out the terms of the settlements had been read out at the Central London County Court, Judge Calman, who was presiding, said it had vindicated the three men.

Mr Thomas, of West London, was arrested after a demonstration at which, he claimed, he was kicked by a police officer. He was forcibly restrained by a second officer; the other policeman punched him in the face and grabbed him around the throat.

The officers had claimed that, during the demonstration, Mr Thomas had thrust a pole at the police and shouted "One of you is going to die". Mr Thomas was charged with affray and assault but at the end of a trial in 1990, the judge directed the jury to enter a not guilty verdict after finding that he had no case to answer.

In 1991 a stipendiary magistrate at Marylebone Magistrate's Court

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Every little helps.

Scientists take the sting out of vaccines

By A STAFF REPORTER

VACCINATIONS may be made painless by a new technique which involves painting genetically engineered viruses on the skin.

The procedure has been tested only on mice, but the American development team says it could lead to painless vaccines which would not have to be administered by nurses or doctors.

Vaccines encourage the production of antibodies by exposing the body to weakened infectious organisms, or the toxins they produce. Most are administered by injection because, if swallowed, they would be destroyed by the digestive system.

The new method, developed by the genetics expert De-Chu Tang and scientists from the University of Alabama, uses viruses to carry the vaccine components into the body through the skin.

In one experiment, an immune response was seen in 23 out of 24 vaccinated mice. In another test, six out of 14 mice produced antibodies.

New cities spawned pride and squalor

The 19th century was an age of cities. At its outset, London was the only city in England and Wales with a population that exceeded 100,000. By the time Victoria started her reign, that number had increased to six. At her death, the total had reached 25 and was still climbing.

During Victoria's rule, the proportion of the British population living in cities of such magnitude had all but doubled, to reach a third of the country. Britain had evolved from a rural society to an urban/suburban one in her lifetime.

London's population increased from 1.75 million to 4.25 million. Glasgow's command of Scotland was even more pronounced. The city contained 5 per cent of Scottish residents in 1801. That figure had reached 9 per cent in 1837 and would double before Edward VII became King.

The status of "city" was important for provincial towns as their populations increased. The struggle for official recognition occupied the energies of city fathers. Manchester was formally designated a city in 1851, Liverpool in 1880, Leeds in 1893 and Birmingham in 1896.

The full flowering of the industrial revolution combined with the advent of the railways to create the conditions for mass urbanisation. Trams, and in London the growing Underground network, provided modest fur-

ther assistance in the final two decades of the century. But the health consequences of this rush to the slums was catastrophic.

A set of particularly unpleasant outbreaks of cholera and advances in medical understanding promoted enthusiasm for the "Sanity Idea". It was not until the 1870s that Parliament produced the sort of measures that would eventually improve living conditions and force down levels of mortality.

The knowledge that the cities represented squalor as well as progress may explain the mixed views that leading Victorians had about the urban boom taking place around them. Fascination was tinged with horror. In the 1890s H.G. Wells described the expansion of the cities as a "sustained disaster". John Ruskin referred to the "great foul city of London" and William Morris called the capital "hideous".

In terms of their human quality, almost all cities had



improved dramatically by the time of Victoria's death. Modern medicine had finally made its mark. Furthermore, the emergence of dynamic local authorities had begun the process of slum clearance and widespread sanitation. The most striking example was Birmingham, especially during Joseph Chamberlain's period as Mayor in the 1870s.

He municipalised the gas and water works, purchased large tracts of slumland for public improvement schemes, and revolutionised public expectations about city government. He was supported by an exceptional political machine

based on the Birmingham Liberal caucus. This organisation was the nearest that any British city came to the political parties common in American urban administration.

The Victorian antipathy to cities was based on rather more than their external appearances. The political consequences of social change were feared in many quarters. Cities were seen as the preserve of the "new classes", thrown together with little chance of aristocratic influence. The Established Church was relatively weak compared with the combined forces of Nonconformism and secularism.

Middle-class radicalism and rising working-class identity represented threats to the Victorian order. Manchester, not London, was the birthplace of the Anti-Corn Law League and the same city was associated with the Chartist movement of the 1830s and 1840s. Birmingham produced its Liberal caucus, but Glasgow and the cities of northern England would spawn and nurture the Labour Party.

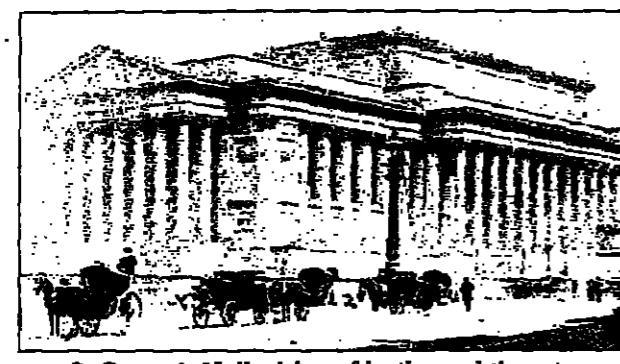


Glasgow's Argyle Street in the late 1890s. Many solidly built tenement homes of that era are much sought after

A glimpse behind the door of history

board. Tenement sinks were known as jawbones: near the window, they were the place where neighbours talked across the courtyard. The Tenement

House has a bedroom, but Miss Toward and her mother before her probably reserved that for lodgers. They themselves would have slept in the boudoir, a cupboard in the kitchen kept warm by the adjacent range. In less genteel tenements, boxbeds would have accommodated whole families. □ The Tenement House, 145 Buccleuch Street: open daily until October 31, 2pm-5pm. Tel 0141-333 0183.



St George's Hall: vision of justice and the arts

Hall of fame grew strong as young architect faded

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

VICTORIA described it as worthy of ancient Athens. The Prince of Wales says it is one of the greatest buildings of the past 200 years.

The neo-classical St George's Hall in Liverpool was built in an era when confidence and wealth went hand in hand in the great maritime city. Harvey Longdale Elmes won a contest to design a hall for a musical festival, and a separate competition to design an assize court. The city fathers combined the two. Elmes was just 23.

Work began in 1842. The frail and pale Elmes, from London, superintended at huge cost to his health. At 30, he contracted tuberculosis, and died three years later.

Architects have marvelled that the young man could have come up with such a colossal vision; his father said he was a martyr to the god of

architecture. The work was completed by Elmes's more robust mentor, Professor C.R. Cockerell.

The building played a central role in the city's life until 1984, when the judges left for a modern complex. In 1867, Dickens delivered readings in the hall. W.S. Gilbert was a barrister in the civil court. More than 2,000 convicts walked down the stone steps to the condemned cell.

Among its features is a sunken tile floor made by Minton of Stoke-on-Trent. Today the trustees are hoping for £30 million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to restore the building.

St George's Hall, Liverpool. Open daily until August 31; 32,000 adults, 50p children, OAPs and unwaged. From September, serves as a conference centre, but tours available on 0151-707 2391.

NEXT

The last of the series: Victorian religion and death

NatWest Business Accounts

Interest Rates

NotWest announces the following interest rates, effective from 21 August 1997:

Solicitors' Reserve Account		
Gross Interest per annum	Balance	Gross Compounded Annual Rate [†]
5.00%	£250,000 and above	5.09%
4.87%	£100,000 - £249,999	4.96%
4.75%	£25,000 - £99,999	4.84%
4.25%	£2,000 - £24,999	4.32%
3.75%	£500 - £1,999	3.80%
2.50%	£0 - £499	2.52%

[†] Where appropriate, you will be deducted or source from interest credited or paid before it may be deducted by a resident non-transparent 5.04% on the unpaid repayment term, interest will be paid gross.

^{††} Gross Compounded Annual Rate is the true annual return on your deposits if the interest payments are retained in the account.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY AUGUST 21 1997

Arafat links up with militants to defy Israelis

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

YASSIR ARAFAT Palestinian Authority yesterday sought out militant Islamic groups to forge a common front against Israel in light of the Arab world's deepening disillusionment over the peace process.

Mr Arafat convened a two-day forum in Gaza City, with the participation of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, in what he called "national unity" talks. He called on the militant groups to join forces with the Palestinian people against Israeli policies.

Mr Arafat said that "all options are open to the Palestinians against Israel's attempts to humiliate them".

The military wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad are open enemies of the Jewish State and have claimed responsibility for the suicide

bombings against its citizens in recent years.

Observers described as significant Mr Arafat's decision to hold a dialogue with Hamas so soon after last month's double suicide market bombing in Jerusalem which killed 15 people. The meeting was being seen as a public forum in an Palestinian anger over Israeli sanctions after the attacks, including closing the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Nabil Abu Rudeineh, an senior adviser to Mr Arafat, said the meeting would continue today but in the West Bank town of Ramallah. "All the Palestinians under the flag of the PLO are standing together to face the challenges and the crisis," he said. Asked about Israeli criticism over the participation of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, he replied: "This

is an internal Palestinian affair. This is the Palestinian Authority policy to contain all the Palestinian groups under the flag of the PLO."

If such unity could be achieved, those groups would be obliged to cease their criticism of the PLO decision to sign peace accords with Israel in 1993. But militant Hamas officials based outside the Palestinian areas said that the organisation would push Mr Arafat to scrap the accords and begin a new armed struggle.

Israeli security officials viewed the participation of the fundamentalist groups in yesterday's meeting as a sign of their satisfaction over Mr Arafat's refusal to crack down on militant Islamic movements. His willingness to talk to Hamas leaders rather than arresting them sent a clear

message that he does not take orders from America or Israel.

Yesterday Israel's air force launched its biggest attack into Lebanon for 16 months in retaliation for a Hezbollah rocket attack against the Jewish state. Warplanes blasted a power line feeding south Leba-

non's largest city and Hezbollah guerrilla bases west of the border with Syria, and dropped bombs near a Lebanese Army position.

The three strikes, in the space of two hours, added to a spiral of violence that began on Monday and has pushed the brink of collapse a 1996

agreement not to target civilians on the last active Arab-Israeli front line.

□ Washington: New American peace initiatives in the Middle East were stalled once again by Mr Arafat's declaration yesterday that he would not submit to Israeli demands for a crackdown on terrorism

(Tom Rhodes writes). His

statements further undermined efforts by Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, to bring momentum to the otherwise deflated peace process. Ms Albright is set to visit the region but the trip's details have yet to be announced.

Mir crew in space 'plug' for milk

Jerusalem: A hole in his space station was not the only thing Vasili Tsibliev, the former commander of the Mir space station, plugged on his star-crossed mission: he also made a television commercial for Israeli milk.

Channel Two television yesterday broadcast a preview of the advertisement showing Mr Tsibliev swallowing a floating globule of long-life milk which he squeezed out of a carton covered with Hebrew script.

The "Milk in Space" advertisement is the story of a cosmonaut who, hundreds of miles away in space and months away from home, craves fresh-tasting milk," said a spokeswoman for Gitam/BBDO, the advertising agency that produced the commercial for Tnuva, Israel's biggest food manufacturer.

She said \$450,000 (£280,000) was budgeted for the 90-second advertisement and a fee, which she declined to disclose, was paid to the Russian Space Agency. She said she did not know if the crew were paid. (Reuters)



Yassir Arafat and Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi, a top leader of Hamas, at the national unity meeting in Gaza yesterday

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11 feared dead in French grain silo explosion

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A HUGE explosion in a grain silo near Bordeaux in western France yesterday morning left 11 workers buried and feared dead beneath tonnes of concrete rubble and grain.

A twelfth man was pulled from the destroyed Sembla cereals plant at the port of Blaye on the Gironde River north of Bordeaux, but as scores of firemen and rescue workers dug through the wreckage last night, hopes of finding more survivors were fading. Six other workers were treated for minor injuries.

Firefighters said that the blast probably was caused by a build-up of static electricity and dust particles in the silo, combined with fermentation of the grain in the summer heat. Some workers for the cereal storage company were loading a ship when the explosion took place shortly after 10am local time, destroying one 100t silo and badly damaging two others.

"There was an enormous ball of fire," one witness said. A passing lorry driver said he saw "windows exploding and flames reaching 50 metres into the air". More than 150 rescue

workers, using sniffer dogs and helicopters, were combing through the mounds of concrete, metal and grain, but the danger of the two damaged silos collapsing was impeding rescue efforts, a firefighter said. The silos contained more than 13,000 cubic metres of corn, oats and barley.

"We have done everything that can be done by hand. We are waiting for heavy machinery to do the rest," Michel Falot, chief of the fire brigade, said yesterday.

Most of the missing workers are believed to have been in an office between two of the silos when the explosion happened, destroying the platform underneath the building from which the cereals were being loaded. The explosion could be heard from several miles away, according to radio reports. The injured man pulled from the devastated building was flown to hospital in Bordeaux, suffering from a broken leg and severe shock.

Jean-Claude Gayssot, the Transport and Housing Minister, flew to the scene of the disaster and said that he had given immediate orders for



Firefighters, above, search for survivors among the wreckage of the grain silo at Blaye and, below, a general view of the site of the disaster



new safety precautions. He said that he and Christian Pierret, Secretary of State for Industry, had "given instructions that in every department in every region of France, local authorities carry out the necessary checks to ensure that such an incident can never happen again".

Six hours after the initial explosion, rescue workers had still not been able to dig down to the destroyed office where the missing workers, eight of them company secretaries, were thought to be buried.

By early evening sniffer dogs had located four people under the rubble, and cranes

were being brought in to remove the heavy concrete debris to try to free them.

In October 1982, 12 people were killed in a similar accident when a silo containing malt exploded near Metz. Investigators concluded that the blast was caused by a build-up of dust and insufficient ventilation.

Grain silo explosions are a known risk. Jean-Claude Lafosse, of the Government's INRS research institute, said: "Grain stored in static conditions poses little danger, but when cereal dust is stirred up into a cloud it becomes highly combustible."

M. Lafosse said: "Malt silos

Archbishop chosen to fight evil of crime

Tegucigalpa, Honduras: The National Legislature has appointed the head of the Roman Catholic Church in Honduras as chief of the newly formed National Police.

The vote was 126-2 in favour of Oscar Andres Rodriguez Maradiaga, Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, who is also president of the Latin American conference of bishops. One opposition legislator and one member of the ruling Liberal Party

voted against. Mgr Rodriguez was not immediately available for comment. Normally, the Vatican prohibits clergymen from holding government jobs without special dispensation.

The MP's decision was part of an effort to overhaul law enforcement in the Central American nation of 5.7 million people, to make it more professional and take it away from the military and place it

under civilian authority. For the past 33 years, the current 6,000-member police force has been part of the military which ruled Honduras for 17 years until 1981, when it relinquished power in favour of elected civilians.

Crime has been increasing for at least the past six years and the police have been increasingly criticised for not being able to cope with it. (AP)

Punk designer's vestments enliven Pope's Paris trip

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

A FASHION designer who dresses punk groups and rock stars has created couture vestments for the Pope for his visit to Paris from today until Sunday.

Jean-Charles Castelbajac, former style guru of The Sex Pistols and The New York Dolls, and who has dressed Elton John, has also designed rainbow-coloured chasubles for the 5,000 priests and 500 bishops who will officiate at the 12th Festival of Youth.

While the Pope is often accused by critics of being too conservative in his theological approach, the same cannot be

said of his fashion sense: the 77-year-old pontiff has a penchant for wearing white Doc Marten boots beneath his cassock. During the Paris trip, the Pope will wear M. de Castelbajac's creation in immaculate white, covered in white embroidery with a few touches of colour by master French embroiderer, Lessage.

The priests will wear white chasubles emblazoned with a vivid stripe of colour in either red, yellow, orange, green or blue - each representing one of the five continents. When the priests are assembled, M. de Castelbajac has created a reversible cape. One side is sombre and the other white, which he says symbolises the passage from darkness to light.

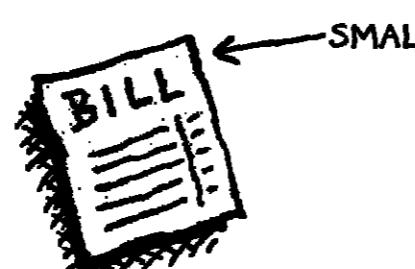
For the 500,000 young people from 50 countries who are expected to attend the festival, the designer has

come up with brightly coloured T-shirts, baseball caps and bandanas.

M. de Castelbajac agreed to design the holy robes without charge after being approached by French Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger at the Champ de Mars near the Eiffel Tower. M. de Castelbajac has created a reversible cape.

This is not the first time the Pope has worn designer robes. Last Easter he was seen in the work of Gai Mattiolo, a Roman designer known as "the new Valentino" who dresses Nicole Kidman and Daryl Hannah.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY AUGUST 21 1997

RK OVERSEAS NEWS 11

Tourist in icy plunge to save Rome fountain

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALY reacted with national outrage yesterday after an attack by three unemployed Romans on Bernini's Fountain of the Four Rivers in Piazza Navona in the heart of the capital. A young tourist from Northern Ireland, who dived into the icy waters of the fountain to rescue the damaged pieces was hailed as a hero.

The media treated the incident as a major act of terrorism, condemning "a mindless act of vandalism", and the news led all television bulletins. "There were calls for heavier fines and jail sentences for damage to the nation's artistic heritage."

Professor Federico Zeri, a leading art expert, said that it was time the army was called in to protect the country's heritage.

Francesco Rutelli, The Mayor of Rome, said: "Enough is enough. From now on we must severely punish anyone who fails to respect our unique cultural heritage."

The damage happened when three unemployed men, aged between 33 and 43, all from Rome, and all with plenty

Bernini Baroque master

police, two of the men climbed out and ran off, but the third was arrested. The other two, identified because of their wet clothes, were caught shortly afterwards. They go on trial tomorrow. Their defence lawyers said they would claim they

had been trying to cool off, and the damage had been accidental.

Messaggero said that police were reluctant to climb into the fountain because they did not want to get their uniforms wet. They asked Ciaran Shevin, 17, from Aughier in Co Tyrone, who was wearing a T-shirt, cycling shorts and sandals. One of the officers helped him to climb into the basin of the fountain, where the water is waist deep, and, to applause from the crowd, Mr Shevin submerged himself three times to bring up the pieces.

"I didn't need asking twice," Mr Shevin said. "We Irish are happy when we can be of service. The pieces were heavier than I expected and the water was very, very cold. But I didn't mind."

An Italian passer-by bought him a blue Italian national football shirt from a street vendor. Mr Shevin, a Roman Catholic, is a member of a mixed group of Protestants and Catholics staying at Lanuvio, near Rome, as part of a European Union town twinning programme.



Ciaran Shevin leaves the Fountain of the Four Rivers after rescuing the tail. The fountain, unveiled in 1651, was dedicated to Pope Innocent X

allegorical figures represent the Nile, the Plate, the Danube and the Ganges rivers.

According to legend, the figure representing the Nile has its face covered so that it cannot see the facade of the church of Sant' Agnese, de-

signed by Bernini's rival Francesco Borromini. Equally, the figure representing the River Plate is raised its hand, as if to stop the church falling down. Alas, neither myth can be true: the church was begun a year after the fountain was completed.

The true explanation is that the Nile's face is covered and the River Plate's hand is raised to shield its eyes because the sources of both rivers were unknown.

The damage to Bernini's fountain comes after a series

of assaults on priceless Italian sculptures and works of art of world importance, including an attack by a deranged Hungarian who believed he was Jesus Christ on Michelangelo's Pietà in St Peter's Basilica in 1972.

Australia used to 'dump' ex-Nazi

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

JEWISH groups fiercely condemned the Australian Government yesterday for allowing Konrad Kalejs, an alleged Nazi war criminal, back into the country. They claimed Australia was being turned into a "dumping ground" for war criminals. The fault is with our laws."

Mr Kalejs, 83, who became a citizen of Australia after the war, arrived there a free man yesterday, having been deported from Canada. An immigration adjudicator had ruled that he had helped to run a slave labour camp in Nazi-occupied Latvia during the Second World War in which prisoners were starved, tortured and murdered.

He was deported from America to Australia three years ago but fled to Canada after the release of secret files on his alleged wartime activities.

Diane Shternman, President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, yesterday called for a change in Australian deportation laws, saying:

'Blood' defaces statue

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX
IN OTTAWA

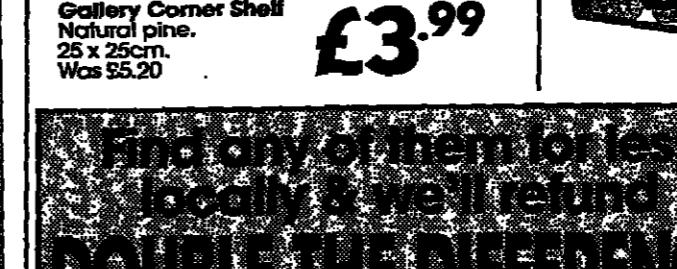
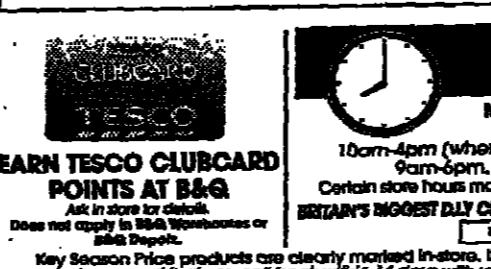
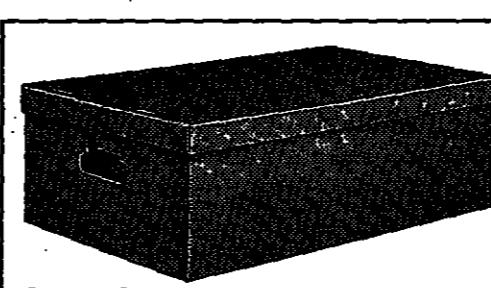
A CONTROVERSIAL statue in Quebec City of General Charles de Gaulle, the late French leader, has been doused in red paint. The damage, discovered on Tuesday morning, cost about £300 to repair.

Two notes in French were left by the statue. One referred to the 1942 Second World War battle in which more than 900 French-speaking Canadians died, saying "Canadian blood at Dieppe."

The statue, unveiled less than a month ago by the separatist government in Quebec province, has attracted repeated attacks from federalists.

De Gaulle, who died in 1970, led the French resistance from England during the war and in 1958 became President of France's Fifth Republic. During Canada's centennial he shouted "Vive le Quebec libre" from a Montreal city hall balcony.

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THE TIMES



INSIDE
SECTION
2
TODAY

BUSINESS

Graham Searjeant
on the future
of the Post Office
PAGE 27

ARTS

Patricia Arquette
in David Lynch's
strange new film
PAGES 31-33

SPORT

Rowell turns
his back
on England
PAGES 38-44

TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
42, 43

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY AUGUST 21 1997

Shell in talks to acquire Gulf outlets

By ERIC SIVELL

THE restructuring of the petrol market was set to continue last night when Shell confirmed it was in negotiations to buy the retail operations of Gulf UK, which are owned by Chevron.

Shell is also negotiating to buy Gulf's commercial fuels and lubricants business, but not its refinery at Milford Haven nor the head office in Cheltenham. Some of its retail arm, Gulf is expected to close the refinery.

Oil experts said the deal would give Shell nearly as much market share as Esso and put it well ahead of BP, which took control of Mobil's retailing businesses in the UK and in continental Europe last year.

Gulf has 450 retail sites, which would give the combined network 2,250 outlets. The Gulf stations would be rebranded as Shell and some weaker outlets would be shed, Shell said.

It added that the Gulf acquisition, which it hopes to complete by the end of the year, would significantly increase its market share. The company said that many of the Gulf sites were in better locations than the Shell outlets. The 16 Gulf stations bought by Shell in 1995 are among the company's best performers.

The value of the 450 Gulf stations is difficult to estimate, because their sales are not known. The price, however, has eroded margins and depressed values.

Esso, which introduced the highly successful Price Watch campaign, is considered the most aggressive petrol retailer. The price war has resulted in the closure of about 10 per cent of stations in the past year or so.

The Shell-Gulf talks come as little surprise. Earlier this year, Chevron put its Gulf stations on the auction block after a proposed three-way merger with the refining and retail operations of BP UK and Marco Bello.

James Frost, chairman and chief executive of Sane Group (formerly the Frost Group), the largest independent petrol retailer, said the Shell-Gulf move would give the big three about 50 per cent of the retail market. Sane, with about 600 stations, has about 25 per cent.

Mr Frost welcomed the Shell-Gulf talks. He said: "The merger would mean that the remaining refiners will have a greater need to sell their products among a smaller number of retailers. We can only benefit from this development."

Shell's acquisition of the Gulf retail sites would require government approval.

News Corp reveals share buyback

By GEORGE SIVELL

THE News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, yesterday announced plans to buy back up to £63.5 million (£600 million) of its ordinary shares after reporting an 8.5 per cent rise in operating profits to £51.47 billion (£677 million) in the year to June 30.

Net profits fell to £57.20 million from £51.02 billion after exceptional charges, largely related to the restructuring of HarperCollins.

The company said that it has cash in excess of its immediate needs and would start a buyback after regulatory approval.

HarperCollins emerged as the strongest of News Corp's operations, with pre-tax profits rising from £43.5 million to £48.8 million. Lower paper prices and a 15 per cent rise in circulation of *The Times* were the driving forces behind the rise.

Norman cashes in £1.66m of options

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

ARCHIE NORMAN, the chairman of Asda and vice-chairman of the Conservative Party, picked up a total of £2.2 million last year from his supermarket job, according to his annual report.

Most of the money he made last year came from share options, granted under a deeply discounted long-term incentive plan (LTIP), which he cashed in for £1.66 million. His basic salary was £439,000 and his total remuneration — excluding pension payments — was £551,000, down from £660,000.

His basic pay in the current year, the first full year in his part-time role, is poised to drop to about £250,000.

Allan Leighton, the new chief executive, received £1.38 million, while Phil Cox, finance director, picked up £1.2 million. Both received £33.750 of their money from cashing in LTIP options.



Norman: pay dropped

Point West comes out of terminal decline

By JASON NISSE

POINT WEST, one of the largest white elephants left by the 1980s property boom collapse, is to be completed a decade after the plan to turn the former West London air terminal into flats.

The development — where work stopped in 1991 — was bought for £60 million yesterday by a consortium led by Regalian Properties and including three Singapore groups. They plan to plough £60 million more into developing Point West into 400 flats — to be sold for up to £2 million each — a leisure centre, restaurant and offices and hope to have it finished in 1999.

The deal means that more than 300 prospective flat buyers — including Stefan Johansen, the motor racing

driver, and Andrea Newman, author of *Bouquet of Barbed Wire*, will finally get back the deposits they paid in 1987. Those were originally worth £16 million but after a court ruling last year the prospective purchasers could receive at least twice that.

The plan to turn the Kensington terminal into flats was the brainchild of Sigmund Berger, an ultra-religious Jew from Hackney, who was once rated Britain's 25th richest person. The development was so sought after that queues formed outside the selling agents when they were put on the market in 1987. Work stopped when the Berger family's Land & Property Trust collapsed in the early 1990s.

The receivers, Deloitte Touche, then sold the development to Farndale, a Panamanian company, for less than £5 million, leaving a consortium of banks with losses of more than £100 million. Farndale, whose London representative, Christopher Shaw, says is owned by a group of "extremely wealthy international traders", will repay the deposits from the receipts of the sale to the Regalian consortium.

David Goldstone, chairman of Regalian, expects to sell the flats to UK residents but also believes there may be strong demand from Singapore. He reckons the consortium can sell the flats for as much as £150 million, generating a £10 million profit.

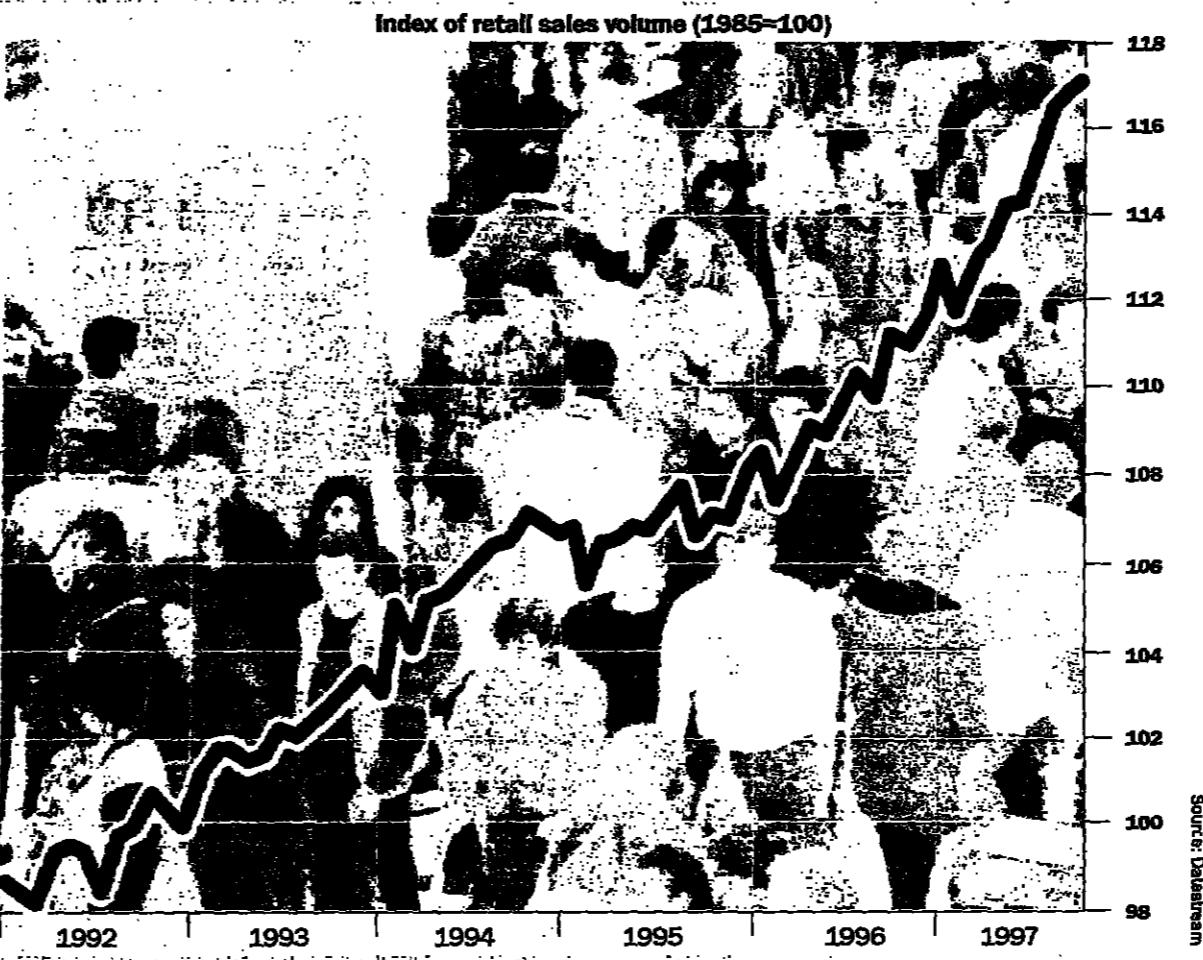
Point West: work stopped in 1991

Treasury plays down inflationary impact of sales

Spending spree fuels fears of rate increases

WINDFALLS LAND IN THE HIGH STREET

Index of retail sales volume (1985=100)



Power bill cuts scaled back

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL
CORRESPONDENT

A THREATENED rebellion by electricity suppliers has forced the regulator to scale down planned price cuts.

Professor Stephen Littlechild had pressed for pricing caps delivering £30 cuts in bills over two years. However, he settled for proposals that will cut the average bill by between £15 and £25, depending on regional variations.

The alternative would have been to refer electricity companies objecting to the price cuts to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. This would have meant that the cuts could not have been implemented for half the industry at a time when Professor Littlechild was trying to introduce competition.

Professor Littlechild denied bowing to political pressure to stop a mass referral to the MMC or heading protests over effects of the windfall tax. He said that he did not believe that the companies would now seek a referral. "I don't see any justifiable basis for any company going to the MMC," he said. "If it did, we've got a strong case to make, but I hope it won't come to that."

Consumer groups fear that the regulator has weakened under industry pressure. Sharon Dee, of the Consumers' Association, said: "Lower prices today have been sacrificed for competition tomorrow."

Although softer than past proposals, the regulator's calculations are bad news for the coal industry and RJB Mining. His assumptions are that coal prices will fall to world prices when current contracts with generators end in March. He has rejected a plan by RJB to extend current contracts as competition is phased in. His move leaves RJB exposed to tough bargaining by generators. RJB said it was still confident of effective negotiations.

Commentary, page 25

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDEXES

FTSE 100	498.64	(+4.42)
Yield	3.33%	
FTSE All share	2234.91	(+17.08)
Nikkei	19252.23	(+291.23)
New York		
Dow Jones	7925.75	(+17.65)
S&P Composite	931.01	(+5.00)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.50%	(5.50%)
Long Bond	9.75%	(9.75%)
Yield	6.55%	(6.55%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7.75%	(7.75%)
12-mth gilt future (Sep)	115%	(115%)

STERLING

New York	1.5925	(1.5925)
London	1.5925	(1.5925)
DM	2.2857	(2.2857)
FF	9.8600	(9.8600)
JPY	118.05	(118.05)
Yen	102.5	(102.5)

\$US \$1

London	1.8869	(1.8869)
DM	2.2335	(2.2335)
FF	1.5285	(1.5285)
Yen	118.05	(118.05)
Yen	102.5	(102.5)

denotes midday trading price

Rentokil up

Rentokil Initial, reporting a 44 per cent rise in interim profits, said it could bring further increases in prices from the businesses acquired in last year's £2.2 billion takeover of BET. Page 25

On the road

A growing band of senior executives in America are shunning their plush offices in favour of an electronic way of working known as "hotelling" and staying in touch with head office by e-mail, telephone and a laptop computer. Page 27

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Griffiths backs Tesco in war with Adidas

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE Government is considering taking action to ensure that British consumers do not pay unnecessarily high prices for branded goods. Nigel Griffiths, Consumer Affairs Minister, said yesterday as he offered his support to Tesco's decision to sell Adidas sports-wear at a discount.

Tesco, which carried out a similar campaign with Levi's jeans earlier this year, built up a £2 million stockpile of Adidas goods after the German company refused to make it an official vendor. Tesco bought the goods, including trainers, through unofficial channels — mainly US retailers — and will sell them from today in 200 of its supermarkets at between 20 and 50 per cent less than the usual price.

Mr Griffiths said that Tesco's move was "the first salvo in a campaign, a co-operative effort". Other supermarkets are set to follow suit, while the Government is also considering action: "We are looking at what leverage we may have on foreign companies. As a major world economic power, we are not without strength," he said.

"What I find outrageous is that American manufacturers supply the US market at substantially less than they supply UK markets," he added.

In a statement, Adidas urged customers to buy its products through "authentic sports retail channels".

The company is not planning to take any legal action against Tesco. Robin Money, head of corporate relations at Adidas UK said: "It will carry out an internal inquiry as to who supplied Tesco.

Shares in the specialist sports retailers, which rely on the high margins they are able to charge on goods from big-name manufacturers, all fell yesterday. Blacks Leisure was down 12½p at 412½p, JJB Sport 1p to 472½p and John David Sport 4p to 182½p.

Tempus, page 26



Philip Lewis, chief executive of Conrad Ritblat, looking over the balcony at EMI house that was used on the Beatles cover *Please, Please Me*.

Bradford & Bingley narrows its margins

By ANNE ASHWORTH

CUTTING jobs and offering better deals for savers and borrowers caused a fall in half-year profits at the Bradford & Bingley, Britain's second-largest building society.

This narrowing of margins is likely to continue because the society, which is eager to demonstrate to the public the advantages of mutuality, said yesterday that it would be delaying an increase in its mortgage rate, currently 7.70 per cent.

Other major lenders, including Halifax, last week raised their rates to 8.45 per cent, in response to the latest bank base rate move. The new loan rate at the Nationwide

Building Society, another mutuality devotee, is 8.10 per cent. The Bradford & Bingley will also be raising its savers' rates by as much as 0.30 per cent on August 24.

Bradford & Bingley profits were £47.7 million, down from £52.7 million in the first six months of 1996.

A cost-cutting programme, which was begun last year when Christopher Rodrigues took over as chief executive, resulted in a £5.8 million exceptional charge to profits. Some 300 jobs have been lost in the "downsizing" exercise, most of them through early retirement or natural wastage.

The total cost of the programme, which is principally

aimed at reducing head office overheads, may be more than £20 million.

Bradford & Bingley saw a £10.2 million fall in its net interest receipts (interest earned from borrowers, less interest paid out to savers). The fall reflects the society's commitment to lower mortgage rates and higher returns for savers, the tangible proof of its wish to retain its traditional status.

Bradford & Bingley's Rewards Today, Rewards Tomorrow scheme is designed as a substitute for the windfalls being paid to members of converting societies. Mr Rodrigues said: "Our lower margins, reduced expenses and higher re-

turns for savers demonstrate the virtues of mutuality." Carpetbaggers helped savings balances to grow by £383 million, to £11.7 billion, during the first half of the year. In spite of its off-stated wish to stay mutual, the Bradford & Bingley is often cited as a likely takeover target for a bank or an insurance company. To deter speculators, the society's basic minimum investment level is £500.

During the period, the Bradford & Bingley bought the £1.5 billion Mortgage Express loan book from Mortgage Express. The society said yesterday that it would

securitise some £1 billion of past and sell it to investors.

Ritblat looks at Beatles landmark

By ADAM JONES

CONRAD RITBLAT, the fast-growing property investor and consultancy, pleased the City with a 102 per cent rise in profits yesterday, but disappointed pop nostalgists by saying it might demolish a Beatles landmark.

Pre-tax profits rose to £3.2 million from £1.8 million for the year to May 31. Net asset value rose from 25p to 28p per share. The shares rose 11½p to 28½p yesterday, close to a 12-month high.

Ritblat said property consultancy fee income rose from £13.8 million to £25.7 million. Rental income rose from £2.2 million to £3.5 million.

It sold the majority of office and industrial properties in the regions for a £400,000 profit on book value after the year-end, to concentrate investment on London property.

Ritblat spent £10.3 million in April on one of West London's pop landmarks, the EMI offices on Manchester Square where the Beatles posed for the cover of *Please, Please Me*.

Philip Lewis, chief executive, said it might be demolished to make way for a 100,000 sq ft office development taking advantage of the Heathrow rail link that will stop nearby. Another option is refurbishment. Ritblat also hopes to expand the attractions at the Astoria theatre near Oxford Street, where it has the head lease and an option to the freehold.

The company made a profit of £127,000 on the disposal of nine traditional pub properties in the provinces, in spite of suggestions in the brewing industry that these sites are dying at the hands of modernised pubs in the city centres. It owns 100 more.

A final dividend of 5.6p (6.325p) will be paid on October 31, for a total of 7.59p (6.325p).

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

A&L staff attack plan for part-time working

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER, the building society turned bank, has come under fire from its staff union over plans to move 400 staff to part-time contracts for less pay, and cover the closure of 18 branches next month. Andrew Nurse, chairman of Alugs, the group union of staff that represents 3,800 of the 5,000 staff, said last night that the proposed changes in working conditions "were significant enough to create a problem if anything untoward were to happen in branches other than normal daily levels of business".

Mr Nurse said the moves by Alliance & Leicester, which last week reported a 3 per cent fall in interim pre-tax profits to £17.8 million after £2.8 million of conversion costs, followed a survey by a US management consultancy firm. Alliance & Leicester, headed by Peter White, said that staff would be offered a compensation package for up to a year to cover loss of earnings and benefits caused by the switch from full-time to part-time working.

More users for Ionica

IONICA, the wireless phone company, said its customer base rose 55 per cent as it rolled out its network in the East of England and in the Midlands. In the quarter to June 30, it gained almost 3,800 customers, making 24,600. Hoare Govett, the securities firm, expects about 55,000 by March 1998. Pre-tax losses in the quarter were £30.3 million, against a £12.6 million loss in the period last year, on revenue of £1.96 million, up from £26,000. Results were in line with expectations.

Bodycote races ahead

SHARES in Bodycote, the specialist engineering company, rose 35p to 942½p yesterday after it reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £23.5 million from £12.6 million in the six months to June 30. Turnover was £99.7 million, up from £61.4 million. Earnings were 19.8p a share, up from 13.3p. A 3.5p interim dividend (2.6p) will be paid on December 31. The company is planning to expand its overseas operations, which account for 68 per cent of its profits.

Tempus, page 26

Fisher confirms disposal

SHARES in Albert Fisher, the food producer, rose 4p to 40p after it confirmed that it intended to dispose of its seafood operations. Albert Fisher said that it had decided to concentrate on its expertise in fruit, vegetables, salads, sauces and dressings. The company said that it wanted to enhance its position in these high-growth healthy eating markets. It added that proposals relating to the sale of the seafood operations would be put to shareholders.

Trinity buys Irish paper

TRINITY INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS, the regional press group, has bought Post Publications, owner of *The Sunday Business Post* in the Irish Republic, for £6.55 million (£4.9 million). The deal follows last year's purchase of the *Refuge Telegraph*. Post Publications was controlled by Barbara Nugent, chief executive, Damien Kibber, editor, and Aileen O'Toole, deputy editor, each of whom owned 20.8 per cent. Verlag Norman Rentrop, a German publisher, owned the rest.

LIG adds new brand

LONDON INTERNATIONAL GROUP, the health care group, has bought the Topaz condom brand from a Monaco company for £1.3 million in cash. LIG has acquired the brand, its patents and related assets from Motech. LIG said: "Underpinned by LIG's strong sales and distribution network, we are confident in our ability to further develop the Topaz brand on a worldwide basis." LIG shares remained unchanged at 166½p yesterday.

Steel company advances

RICHARDSONS WESTGARTH, the steel stockholder, said there were clear signs that price increases were holding in all products after falling to their lowest level for many years during the first half of 1997. The company was reporting a 19 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £2.96 million for the six months to the June 30, with volumes increasing by 15 per cent. Earnings of 3.5p a share compare with 4.5p previously. The interim dividend is increased to 1.6p a share from 1.4p. The shares rose 6p to 88½p.

BLP raises payout

BLP GROUP, the manufacturer of wood veneer surfaces, is increasing its interim dividend to 2.5p a share, from 1.5p, after reporting a rise in pre-tax profits to £1.25 million, from £802,000, in the six months to June 30. Earnings rose to 14.6p a share from 10.5p. Turnover from continuing operations was £1.67 million, putting it 16.1 per cent higher. Operating profits overall rose by 37 per cent to £1.4 million. The company said that it was encouraged by trading levels in the third quarter.

Edinburgh Oil profit dip

EDINBURGH OIL & GAS, the UK exploration and production company, reported a decline in net profits to £579,000, from £413,000, for the six months to June 30, reflecting lower investment income after the acquisition of DSM Energy (UK). Average daily production was 23.6 per cent to 1,160 barrels of oil equivalent per day, helping to lift turnover by 14.8 per cent to £22.34 million. The company embarked on a seven-well drilling programme this month.

Armitage steady

ARMITAGE BROTHERS, the pet products group, attributed slower second-half sales growth to a general weakening in the pet product markets, which led pre-tax profits unchanged at £1.4 million in the year-to-date. Earnings per share rose to 23.7p, from 22.9p previously. The shares remained steady at 250p as the company announced an unchanged final dividend of 4.1p a share, taking the total dividend to 7.4p from 7.2p a year earlier.

M&S calls for cut in gas tax

MARKS & SPENCER has called on the Government to cut fuel taxes on natural gas in a drive to stimulate more use of the fuel. The retailer is to replace some of its diesel-powered lorries with trucks powered by liquefied natural gas and wants the Government to cut the tax on the fuel from 2p per kilogram to 10p. Along with BOC Distribution Services, Marks & Spencer has urged the cut to bring the UK in line with other European countries. LNG is more environmentally friendly than diesel, with emissions from 25 natural gas vehicles equal to those from one diesel-powered vehicle. But LNG trucks cost nearly 50 per cent more than diesel lorries.

EDS cutting 900 jobs in Europe

By JASON NISSÉ

EDS, the US computer services group that has taken on much of the running of the Inland Revenue, is making 900 staff redundant across Europe, with half of the redundancies expected to be in the UK.

The group is closing its computer processing centre in Swindon, which it inherited as part of a £1.5 billion deal with the Revenue, with the loss of 200 jobs. It is making further cuts by getting rid of tasks that it did not think were needed within the group and it is also redeploying more than 1,000 staff to take over tasks done by contractors and freelancers.

Two months ago *The Times* reported a letter to staff from John Bateman, EDS' European chief, who said the group

PA Consulting parts company with chairman

By JON ASHWORTH

PA Consulting Group, one of Britain's top management consultancies, has been rocked by the sudden resignation of its chairman and group chief executive — hard on the heels of a damaging inland Revenue investigation.

Jon Moynihan, who combined the top roles, is said to have fallen out with PA's majority shareholder over reforms to the firm's ownership and governance structure. PA said his departure was not linked to the Revenue inquiry, which saw the firm pay an estimated £11 million in back taxes linked to expenses claims. He leaves at the end of the year, and the search for a successor has begun.

Mr Moynihan, 49, joined

PA in 1992 after ten years with First Manhattan Consulting Group in New York, where he played a prominent role in the firm's growth in financial services consulting. Educated at Balliol College, Oxford, North London Polytechnic, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he previously worked for McKinsey in Europe.

PA said Mr Moynihan's departure was precipitated by problems in its discussions with the Butler Trust, which was originally linked to Ernest Butler, who founded PA in 1943. The trust owns 71 per cent of PA. Its beneficiaries are past and present PA employees.

Mr Moynihan said:

"Though I was not planning to

leave at this time, I know that

the firm is currently very highly rated in the marketplace and that there is a broad base of ability which will ensure the continued success for PA." He added that 1997 results were "considerably ahead" of last year, in spite of the strength of the pound.

PA settled with the Revenue late last year. The sum was not disclosed, but the firm made provision for a hefty potential liability in its 1995 accounts.

Clients have included the Stock Exchange, BAT Industries, the BBC and British Airways, as well as the Government, which has used PA's services in connection with large consulting contracts.

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Inside the Stock Exchange tower, teams of clever people labour on investigations. One can only wonder why, for they appear to find pitiably little that is incriminating and, even when they do turn up something nasty, the Exchange is loath to do anything about it.

This week, at the end of one but two investigations into its affairs, a wet lemme leaf was wafted gently in the direction of Anite. Such a reaction is hardly likely to deter others from doing what the Exchange discovered this company had done, namely to have misled the stock market and, subsequently, compounded that offence by misleading a Stock Exchange inquiry.

There is to be no public censure of the company and the directors who were involved are free to continue providing their services to other companies. Roger Holland, for instance, now sits on the board of bums to guns conglomerate, Tomkins.

Investors should feel less than comfortable with the way they are kept in the dark.

Part of the problem lies with the inherent weakness in the Exchange's powers to punish, part with its preference for its culture of secrecy.

Public censure is a rarely used sanction — last deployed in June last year, when Clondalkin, the Irish packaging group, was remanded for a deficient and unapproved acquisition circular.

More often, investigations con-

clude with private censures that leave no one any the wiser except the offending companies, their directors and advisers. With the Exchange tongue-tied because of the Financial Services Act, the significance of past misdemeanours is easily denied or played down, as Anite has so capably demonstrated.

As those who have been paying attention may recall, *The Times* believes the company, when it was still called Cray Electronics, seriously misled the stock market about the mounting losses within its data communications business. The Exchange had already carried out one investigation when fresh documents came to light, showing that those at the highest levels of the company had extensive knowledge of the problems months before the April 1995 profits warning, the start of a downward spiral, which has since wiped out almost £300 million of shareholders' investments.

Prompted by the new evidence, the Exchange decided to take a second look, and found fresh fault with Anite — not least, that the company had withheld important information from the earlier inquiry. However, you

have only got our word for that. All Anite told its shareholders this week was that "The Stock Exchange has drawn certain matters to the company's attention." Investors can be forgiven for shrugging: so what?

But while the Stock Exchange feels it is unable to censure the directors who were involved because they are no longer with the company, a change of address would not normally shift culpability.

Getting the measure of the boom

QUESTION: When is a boom not a boom? Answer: When the Government does not wish to see interest rates rise.

So the official line on yesterday's retail sales figures is that, despite showing the highest rate of growth since the heady days of the eighties spending

sprees, this does not really count as a boom. What we have here is just consumers parting with some of their building society windfalls, but remaining careful about how they use their cash.

This analysis may be fairly accurate. I suspect that it is. The fact is that we do not know and the gratifying sight of rival economists producing very different instant reactions to the figures makes that perfectly clear.

The retail sales figures are, anyhow, prone to regular retrospective readjustments, so the numbers that were reeled off yesterday should be handled carefully by the Bank of England's monetary policy committee. The Chancellor's hand-picked team of interest rate adjusters has already indicated that it will take a breather and allow the results of its recent endeavours to register before deciding whether another turn of the base rate screw is required.

What the MPC needs to establish was what the Office of National Statistics was yesterday trying to estimate: can the uplift in consumer spending be accounted for simply by windfalls or do people feel they can spend more of their earned income, encouraged by a growing feeling of job security which is beginning to show up in opinion polls.

In either case, whether or not the politicians would prefer to avoid the term, the high street is clearly enjoying a boom. The question is whether it is to be a short-lived, but enjoyable, interlude or something more sustainable for the shops and their shareholders alike.

Anecdotal evidence from retailers is that there is not a change in the national spending psyche, and that the continuing price consciousness of customers will ensure that inflation does not let rip.

They argue that the leap in clothing sales last month owes more to the vagaries of weather than economics and that

the upsurge in household sales is a reflection of windfall spending.

The retailers are, of course, talking their own book in saying, when in earshot of the Bank, that this is a short-term spurt that does not need quelling with another interest rate hike. The fact that most are whispering the same tale to analysts indicates that they believe it to be true.

BAT ready to drive a hard bargain

Chris Smith, the Heritage

Secretary, might have encountered a few difficulties in his efforts to stop tobacco companies using sporting events to promote the evil weed. His ill-conceived tussle with the chaps at Camelot will hardly have prepared him for taking on the force of the international heavyweights.

They were not likely to simply accept a ban on sponsorship and now it seems that BAT is determined to buy itself a Formula One team to race around the grand prix tracks in the interests of encouraging people to smoke. Mr Smith may ban BAT from plastering the names of its cigarette brands around the

track or even plastering them on the sides of cars, but if the team races under the Lucky Strike label, what is the poor commentator to do?

People at BAT know a bit about advertising and sponsorship and the likelihood is that they have thought this issue through rather more than the unfortunate Mr Smith.

If he curtails their promotional opportunities in one direction, they will seek others, and investing £250 million on buying a top-flight racing team may look like a bargain given the international coverage that grand prix racing now collects. In fact, it is BAT's sales drive in the Third World that is likely to be the biggest beneficiary of its arrival behind the Formula One wheel.

But putting the sanctimonious Mr Smith on the spot will be a delightful bonus, to be savoured over a relaxing smoke.

Corporate coolness

SOME companies still fail to be cowed by the corporate governors. Wintrust Securities, a tiddler in the banking sector, boasts a refreshing dearth of remuneration and audit committees, perhaps because it has not a single non-executive director to sit upon them. This does not deter such proper investors as Prudential and M&G from holding chunks of the stock. Perhaps they like the company's profit record rather than its pronouncements.

Rentokil wrings bigger profits from BET takeover

BY PAUL DURMAN

RENTOKIL Initial, the cleaning and pest control group, said yesterday its latest results showed how it could wring bigger profits from the businesses acquired in last year's £2.2 billion takeover of BET.

The group's half-year pre-tax profits of £193.9 million were a 44.2 per cent improvement on the previous period, which included only two months from Initial and the other BET businesses. This enabled Rentokil Initial again to hit its target of 20 per cent earnings growth, despite profit being cut by £14.3 million by the strength of sterling. Earnings per share rose 20.3 per cent to 4.74p.

Sir Clive Thompson, chief executive, pointed to the per-

formance of the personnel services division, which largely consists of BET's recruitment agencies, for "what Rentokil's management can do to BET's businesses".

Turnover in personnel services grew by 17 per cent to £161.3 million, but profits grew much faster, by 43 per cent to £11.7 million. Sir Clive said this had been achieved by concentrating on more profitable sectors and regions. He said there were good opportunities for further margin improvements.

Sir Clive said the group had now put in place the management team for its enlarged business and had not been distracted by the integration problems that damaged the

last set of results. Without the impact from the strong pound, Rentokil Initial would have achieved earnings growth of 28.4 per cent.

The results were well received in the City, and the group's shares rose 3p to 217.2p.

Sir Clive said he expected about 30,000 of the group's 80,000 UK employees to be directly or indirectly affected by the Government's planned minimum wage legislation.

He expects to be able to pass most extra costs to customers.

Sir Clive again set out his 20

per cent target, pointing to the group's scope to continue its record by expanding expansion in continental Europe and South-East Asia. He said:

"In theory we have the opportunity to grow by that amount for 50 years. It depends on competition, innovation and economic cycles. If [the target] is as difficult now as it was 15 years ago, ten years ago or five years ago, it was always hard."

Hygiene and cleaning is now the group's biggest business, increasing profits by 47 per cent to £21.4 million on sales of £416.5 million. The original pest control business, which suffered a fall in profits in the UK last year, reported a 7 per cent fall in profits to £33.1 million.

Sir Clive said the 20.3 per cent increase in the interim dividend to 8.89p a share, to be paid on November 6, indicated the board's continuing confidence.

Tempus, page 26

BG heading for pricing clash with watchdog

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A POTENTIAL legal clash between BG and Ofgas loomed yesterday after the company submitted its latest demands in the battle over Transco's pricing proposals. It is also keeping a close eye on another regulatory legal clash.

BG is odds over a revenue cap proposed by Clare Spottiswoode, the industry regulator, when she sets out licence amendments to implement the MMC's recommendations on pricing curbs for BG's pipeline network.

BG has agreed to the MMC ruling, which could deliver bill cuts of £29 per year, but argues that a cap on all revenues is not what the MMC intended.

OGDEN CORPORATION, the US entertainment group, has spoken out in defence of Kenneth Thompson, the former Capital Corporation director accused of conspiring to harm the gaming group.

In a writ issued on Tuesday,

Capital alleged that Mr Thompson had acted for Ogden in connection with a proposed deal to acquire London's Cromwell Mint castle at the same time that Capital was trying to acquire it.

He also confirmed that Ogden had approached Capital offering to take on the management of its two London clubs, Crookfords and the Colony Club. "We had read



Roy Bishko, chairman, is expecting a good profits contribution from Knot Shops

Tie Rack acquires US rival

TIE RACK, the retailer of ties, scarves and accessories, has

acquired a smaller American

rival, the Knot Shops, for \$2.5

million (£1.6 million) cash

(Sarah Cunningham writes).

The Knot Shop has 21 stores in 12 states in the US, including two airport stores. They

will continue to trade under

their own name. Tie Rack

already has 39 stores in the

US, part of its worldwide

chain of 440 stores in 28

countries. No warehouse, cen-

tral office or executive staff

have been taken over. The

Knot Shops will be serviced,

along with the group's other

overseas operations, from Tie

Rack's central distribution fa-

cility in West London.

Roy Bishko, chairman of Tie

Rack, said: "I expect a

good contribution to profits,

without significantly adding

to our overhead."

about the management problems at Capital and we felt we could put together a pretty good team, but it never reached that stage."

Mr Raphael, who ran London's Claremont Club for Playboy in the Seventies, admitted Ogden had contacted Mr Thompson after it became aware he had resigned from Capital's board. But the discussions had never progressed beyond the informal stage.

He also confirmed that Ogden had approached Capital offering to take on the management of its two London clubs, Crookfords and the Colony Club. "We had read

improvement in the South of England, which has traditionally proved a tough nut to crack. "Part of the success is the result of increased distribution, in particular through corner shops and garage forecourts," he said.

Earnings per share, helped by a share buyback programme, rose from 6.44p to 7.45p, while the interim dividend, payable on October 27, has been raised by 10.2 per cent to 2.7p.

Ronnie helps Vimto to a purple patch

BY DOMINIC WALSH

PURPLE RONNIE, the cartoon character behind Vimto's £1 million summer advertising campaign, is putting a smile on the face of JN Nichols, the Manchester manufacturer of the fruit cordial.

The company, whose catchline is "Vimto puts a smile on your face", yesterday reported a 10.2 per cent rise



Spottiswoode: cap plan

in pre-tax profits in the first half of 1997 to £4.2 million on turnover up from £35.4 million to £36.1 million.

Although volumes in June came in 20 per cent below budget due to the wet weather, the subsequent heatwave, aided by Purple Ronnie, should see the company achieve analysts' full-year profit forecasts of around £10.5 million.

He said the company, which also runs contract packaging and food supply businesses, was even seeing an

improvement in the South of England,

which has traditionally proved a tough nut to crack. "Part of the success is the result of increased distribution, in particular through corner shops and garage forecourts," he said.

Earnings per share, helped by a

share buyback programme, rose from 6.44p to 7.45p, while the interim dividend, payable on October 27, has been raised by 10.2 per cent to 2.7p.

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STOCK MARKET



CLARE STEWART

Regulator's ruling lights up the electricity sector

THE electricity sector switched into gains as the generators led the way among the FTSE 100 top performers.

Kinder than expected proposals on price cuts from the electricity regulator helped PowerGen to jump 35p to 761.2p, a rise of nearly 5 per cent, while National Power moved up 25p to 539.2p. The generators were also lifted by the absence of a price cap on the pool price, though the way in which pool prices are set remains under review.

Among the distributors ScottishPower put on 11p to 431.2p, while Southern Electricity added up to 461p.

The focus on the electricity sector provided some substantial food for a market that on volumes and inspiring news.

Shares followed a more confident track, helped once again by Wall Street's overnight lead and later its firm opening. A raft of data, including retail sales and bank lending, made little impact on sentiment, said traders.

At the close the FTSE 100 was 44.2 points higher at 4,958.4, a few points below its peak. Volumes remained modest at 67 million.

Exporters were squeezed by concerns over the strength of sterling. GKN lost 45p to 511.92p and Siebe was off 28p to 510.96p. A broker's sell recommendation also hit Tomkins, which retreated 10p to 317.2p, while TI Group fell back 10p to 581.2p.

BTR was once again busy, with over 25 million shares traded, though the price retreated after its recent rises on the back of disposal speculation, and ended 8p lower at 219p after profit-taking.

Oil stocks were in demand, with BP continuing to rise in the wake of a large discovery off the Angolan coast. BP has a 16.67 per cent stake in the Dalia field. BP yesterday rose 34p to 593p. Shell also motored ahead, adding 5p to 455.2p after recent broker upgrades. Burmah Castrol ended 18p higher at 10.87p.

Cairn Energy put on 17p before easing back to end 8p at 531.2p, while Premier Oil rose 24p to 464p.

JKN Oil & Gas was unchanged at 42p despite talk of moves to block its agreed bid from Ramco by Ukr-Gazprom, the Ukrainian state owned operator of oil. BG rose 5p to 259p as speculation continued that a large-scale



John Chesworth, of Bodycote, up 35p on strong results

buyback will be announced when the group reports interim results early next month. The shares previously peaked at 261p.

Among retailers Dixons were helped 17p higher to 639p by a buy recommendation from Salomon Brothers, which is setting a target price of 665p. The brokers also like the look of Kingfisher, pencilling in a target price of 775p.

The shares rose 7p to 742p. Other stores had a mixed day in the wake of the retail sales figures. Next fell back 12p to 772.2p after recent gains, while Oasis benefited from a strong buy recommendation from SGST, its house broker, and moved up 1p to 265.4p. Retail analyst Nick Bubb at Société Générale Strauss Turnbull recommends a switch to Oasis from Laura

Ashley, flagging up the strength of Oasis' autumn range. Laura Ashley put on 2p to 57.2p.

Sport goods retailers took a tumble on news that Tesco plans to sell Adidas branded goods at low prices. Blacks Leisure fell 12p to 412.2p, while JJB Sports fell to 466p before closing off a penny at 472.2p. Tesco rose 2p to 57.2p.

Granada rose 3p to 805.2p. Analysts at Kleinwort Benson are buyers of the stock and have set a target price of 940p.

Positive broker talk also boosted Unilever, which moved up 3p to 181.55, while Reckitt & Colman, reporting figures next week, rose 9.1p to 972p.

The £7.2 million acquisition of two logistics businesses by Hays, the business services group, was well received, and helped the shares to climb 10.1p to 600.1p.

Better than expected interim results from Weir lifted shares in the engineering group to a new high for the year with a 13.1p jump to 279.1p and triggered profit upgrades for the full year.

Bodycote was also propelled to new heights, after its strong half-time jump. The shares of the metal specialists, headed by John Chesworth, managing director, ended 35p ahead at 942.2p.

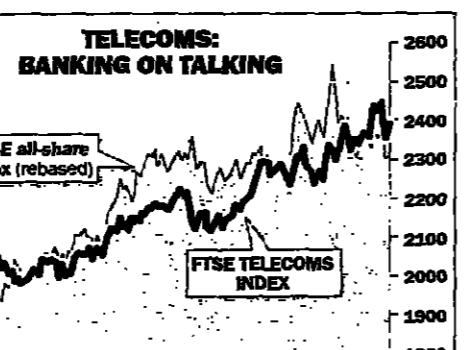
Bankers again stepped up buying interest with the Halifax, reporting today, moving up 4p to 736p. HSBC was again in demand and rose 35p to £221.11s and Barclays, after its share buyback, ended 32.1p higher at £14.26.

Takeover speculation sent Boots & Hawkes rocketing ahead again to a new record level of £10.622, up 165p.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Retail sales figures prompted a flurry of early activity as the market took a positive view of the data. However, trading tailed off as *holiday conditions* prevailed. In futures, the September series of the long gilt ended up 1.25p to 115.12s on volumes of 52,000.

At the long end Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was up 1.22s to £110.13s, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was also up by a couple of ticks at £102.24s.

□ **NEW YORK:** Blue chips faded from early highs to stay firm in late morning trading. They were outpaced by technology shares. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 17.65 ahead at 7,935.75.



FTSE TELECOMS INDEX

Source: Datastream

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

1800 1900 2000 2100 2200 2300 2400 2500 2600

FTSE All-share index (rebased)

FTSE TELECOMS INDEX

Source: Datastream

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

1800 1900 2000 2100 2200 2300 2400 2500 2600

FTSE All-share index (rebased)

FTSE TELECOMS INDEX

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Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

1800 1900 2000 2100 2200 2300 2400 2500 2600

FTSE All-share index (rebased)

FTSE TELECOMS INDEX

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Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

1800 1900 2000 2100 2200 2300 2400 2500 2600

FTSE All-share index (rebased)

FTSE TELECOMS INDEX

Source: Datastream

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

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FTSE All-share index (rebased)

FTSE TELECOMS INDEX

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FTSE All-share index (rebased)

FTSE TELECOMS INDEX

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Have you chosen your fantasy team?

GOALKEEPERS			
Code	Name	Team	Price
10101	Jan Leighton	Aberdeen	2.0
10201	David Seaman	Arsenal	6.0
10301	Mark Schwarzer	Aston Villa	3.0
10401	Dave Watson	Barnsley	1.0
10501	Tim Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.5
10601	Keith Brannigan	Bolton Wanderers	1.5
10701	Stewart Kerr	Celtic	4.0
10801	Ed de Goey	Derby County	3.0
10901	Steve Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.5
11001	Carlo Cudicini	Crystal Palace	1.0
11101	Ken Hause	Derby County	2.0
11201	Mark Poom	Derby County	1.5
11301	Steb Dykstra	Dundee United	3.0
11401	Ian Westhead	Dunfermline	1.0
11501	Neville Southall	Everton	2.0
11601	Gilles Houssier	Hearts	1.5
11701	Chris Rock	Heeman	1.0
11801	Dragoje Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.0
11901	Kassey Keller	Leeds United	2.5
12001	David Jones	Liverpool	3.5
12101	Peter Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.0
12201	Scott Howie	Motherwell	1.0
12301	Shay Given	Newcastle United	4.0
12401	Andy Goram	Nottingham Forest	5.0
12501	Kevan Norman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.5
12601	Alain Masson	St Johnstone	0.5
12701	Mick Taylor	Southampton	1.5
12801	Ian Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.0
12901	Lukasz Mikloski	West Ham United	2.0
13001	Neil Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.5

CENTRAL DEFENDERS			
Code	Name	Team	Price
30101	Brian O'Neill	Aberdeen	2.0
30201	Tony Adams	Arsenal	3.5
30301	Martin Keown	Arsenal	3.5
30401	Giles Gaskell	Aston Villa	2.0
30501	Mike Southgate	Aston Villa	3.5
30601	Ugo Ehiogu	Aston Villa	1.0
30701	Ariane de Zeeuw	Barnsley	0.5
30801	Adrian Moles	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
30901	Mike Agius	Coventry City	1.5
31001	Colin Calderwood	Crystal Palace	1.0
31101	Carlo Cudicini	Derby County	2.0
31201	Ken Hause	Derby County	1.5
31301	Mark Poom	Derby County	3.0
31401	Chris Fardborough	Dundee United	1.0
31501	Steve Watson	Dunfermline	1.0
31601	Maloy Mackay	Everton	3.0
31701	Alan Stubbs	Frank Lampard	3.0
31801	Mike Doherty	Glasgow Rangers	3.0
31901	Steve Clarke	Leeds United	2.5
32001	Bernard Lambourne	Leicester City	1.5
32101	David Lupton	Leicester City	1.5
32201	Richie Shear	Coventry City	1.5
32301	Greg Shields	Coventry City	1.5
32401	Steve Watson	Crystal Palace	1.5
32501	David May	Derby County	0.75
32601	Andy Roberts	Dundee United	1.0
32701	John Hartson	Dunfermline	0.75
32801	David Unsworth	Everton	2.0
32901	David Wier	Everton	2.0
33001	John Hartson	Hibernian	1.5
33101	John Hartson	Leeds United	2.0
33201	David Wier	Leeds United	2.0
33301	David Wier	Leicester City	2.0
33401	John Hartson	Leicester City	2.0
33501	David Wier	Leicester City	2.0
33601	John Hartson	Leicester City	2.0
33701	David Wier	Leicester City	2.0
33801	John Hartson	Leicester City	2.0
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34001	John Hartson	Leicester City	2.0
34101	David Wier	Leicester City	2.0
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36101	David Wier	Leicester City	2.0
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39001	John Hartson	Leicester City	2.0
39101	David Wier	Leicester City	2.0
39201	John Hartson	Leicester City	2.0
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39401	John Hartson	Leicester City	2.0
39501	David Wier	Leicester City	2.0
39601	John Hartson	Leicester City	2.0
39701	David Wier	Leicester City	2.0
39801	John Hartson	Leicester City	2.0
39901	David Wier	Leicester City	2.0
40001	John Hartson	Leicester City	2.0
40101	Edin Jezic	Aberdeen	3.0
40201	Paul Merson	Aberdeen	2.0
40301	Mike Chinnicks	Arsenal	5.5
40401	Steve Watson	Arsenal	3.5
40501	John Hartson	Newcastle United	2.0
40601	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
40701	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
40801	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
40901	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
41001	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
41101	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
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41301	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
41401	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
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41801	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
41901	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
42001	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
42101	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
42201	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
42301	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
42401	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
42501	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
42601	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
42701	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
42801	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
42901	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
43001	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
43101	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
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44201	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
44301	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
44401	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
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44701	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
44801	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
44901	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
45001	John Hartson	Newcastle United	1.5
45101	Billy Doidge	Aberdeen	5.0
45201	Ian Wright	Arsenal	7.5
45301	Denis O'Dea	Blackburn Rovers	7.5
45401	Steve Watson	Aston Villa	7.5</td

NEW MOVIES: Geoff Brown concentrates like mad during David Lynch's *Lost Highway*, but still gets hopelessly lost

Driving blind in the contraflow

Tired of Hollywood's summer silliness or films that make sense? Then welcome to *Lost Highway*, David Lynch's first feature in four years. He has not been idle: the brain that gave us *Blue Velvet* and *Twin Peaks* has now concocted an awesomely bizarre entertainment that would baffle even Albert Einstein. Time and space are bent out of shape: one character merges into another. Paranoia runs rampant. This is a hallucinogenic tale of murder, blackmail, amnesia, female entrapment and night-time rides down glistening tarmac, all wrapped in an audacious soundtrack.

The film's universe is so extreme, so brazen in refusing rational explanations, that audiences are faced with two choices. You can either hitch yourself to Lynch's wagon, and bask in the perverse delights devised by the director and Barry Gifford (author of the novel *Wild at Heart*). Or you can stand outside, alienated from a film that talks a private language. Since Lynch's control and pacing falter sometimes, a third option emerges: you can feel intrigued, then frustrated, briefly mesmerised, then faintly fed up, then bored. This is the path I took.

A plot outline would mislead, for the lines connecting cause and effect are impossible to skewer. Bill Pullman begins as a jazz musician in a city sprawl resembling Los Angeles. After numerous strange occurrences he is arrested for the murder of his wife, Patricia Arquette. One day, guards find another man in his prison cell, a younger man (Balthazar Getty), who, once released, starts an affair with another woman played by Arquette, this time sporting bleached hair.

Are these pairs alter egos? Does the action take place inside or outside the characters' heads? And who is the Mystery Man, the ghostly, insidious, lipsticked clown who demonstrates, among other phenomena, how to be in two places at once?

Lynch supplies no answers.

He is only precise in the way he crafts the material of his film, the sounds and images. Decor is spare, but resonant (back-came those red drapes from *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me*). Performances are deliberately low key: no Oscars will be won here. The sound design is bold and intricate, a scrupulously engineered mix of David Bowie, Lou Reed, Smashing Pumpkins, ominous chords and apocalyptic drones.

Given the deluge of workday movies, Lynch's conceptual daring is as refreshing as always. But there is something so insular about *Lost Highway* that I came out gasping for even muggy air.

And so to Joey Richardson, riddling knobs, keys and buttons in a search-and-rescue

Lost Highway
Curzon West End, 18, 134 mins
David Lynch baffles us to bits

Event Horizon
Empire, 18, 95 mins
Hell is discovered in outer space

Albino Alligator
Virgin Haymarket, 18, 97 mins
Kevin Spacey turns director

Jump the Gun
Virgin Haymarket, 15, 112 mins
Les Blair explores modern Johannesburg

Keys to Tulsa
Plaza, 18, 113 mins
One hip crime thriller: too many

Plein Soleil
Curzon Phoenix, PG, 108 mins
Patricia Highsmith adapted by the French

space ship far into deep space in the year 2047. "I'm picking up trace life forms," she says, "but I can't get a lock on the location." There is a price to pay for securing a role in a science-fiction film such as *Event Horizon*, wholly American in flavour although made by a British director at Pinewood. You have to disdain terrible dialogue. From time to time you must parade your physique in little more than a bra and pants. You get knocked around, pelted with debris, spattered with human remains.

Joey's character, Stark, the ship's navigator, is not alone in her struggle: I could not find life forms, either. True, Sam Neill begins the film gazing at family photos — "I miss you," he croons to his wife — but once the ship speeds off on its mission to investigate a vessel missing, believed lost, for seven years in space, all human beings become subordinate to high-tech wizardry. Nobody is spared, not even Laurence Fishburne, the ship's seasoned captain, or Neill's ambiguous scientist, or Richardson in her scutinies.

Dreams of sci-fi extravaganzas can be assured plenty of spectacle. Bodies and hardware are exploded, fragmented and smeared on walls. The renegade ship, the *Event Horizon*, comes styled with Gothic armour-plating and an ominous large bell surrounded by three rotating rings. This gismo is crucial, we discover: this was the engine that allowed ship and crew to travel faster than light, disappear down an evil black hole, and return to spew out messages in Latin and personalised nightmares.

You could call the ship's destination fate. The characters do. The director, Paul Anderson, he of *Shopping* and



Patricia Arquette in *Lost Highway*, David Lynch's "hallucinogenic tale of murder, blackmail, amnesia, female entrapment and night-time rides down glistening tarmac"

Mortal Kombat, even thought Ken Eissner's script reminded him of Dante's *Inferno*. But any benefit the film might enjoy from its supernatural and religious overtones is lost in the welter of bald dialogue, mindless plotting, thunderous music, ripped-out eyes and dripping gore.

Given sufficient money and equipment, it is easy to bombard the viewer with spectacle. The difficulties for movies these days lie in the low-tech arena. *Event Horizon* needs livelier direction and an interesting script, with characters that live and breathe.

In *Albino Alligator*, debutant director Kevin Spacey keeps the camera on the move, weaving between faces on the wide screen as we join the characters trapped in Dino's Last Chance Bar, a Prohibition-era watering hole that houses a battle between burly robbers, customers taken hostage and federal agents laying siege. We might very well be watching a play.

Aside from Spacey's forceful handling, there is a notable cast to keep us absorbed. M. Emmett Walsh, the bar owner, soon lies dead, but there are still Matt Dillon, Faye Dunaway, Gary Sinise and others to ponder moral niceties, act flustered, foolish or brave, and explain the film's title. It refers to a ploy in billiards, a sacrificial move made by one player that blocks the progress of others.

The fancy title indicates the pretensions of the script, a first endeavour by Christian Forst, son of the 1950s pop star Fabian. He is lucky to have Spacey and crew interpreting his work, otherwise this old wine in a new bottle might have been far less drinkable. Escaping from Dino's Last Chance Bar, we hop continents and reach post-apartheid Johannesburg in *Jumping the Gun*. South Africa is not Les Blair's usual territory: the accomplished

maker of semi-improvised dramas, too often hidden in Mike Leigh's shadow, has rarely strayed from the London enclaves of the working and middle-classes. Perhaps his status as a foreign visitor contributes to the film's lack of focus; you never feel a clear point of view as Blair follows the fortunes of a white oil rigger (Lionel Newton) and

a woman fleeing man trouble (Baby Cele). The boisterous playing is infectious, but the elongated running time grows to be a nuisance.

The minutes also pass heavily in *Keys to Tulsa*, yet another small American film arrayed with more talent than the material deserves. Eric Stoltz, James Spader, Michael Rooker and old-timers Mary

Tyler Moore and James Coburn are among those who signed on for Harley Peyton's script, but so much potential gets smothered by Leslie Greif's plain direction. Time, too, is not on the film's side; we have seen too many crime melodramas peppered with losers, wasters and hip dialogue for this pale specimen to appeal.

Finally, we reach *Plein Soleil*, in which a young Alain Delon bares his chest and assumes the identity of the rich friend he does away with. René Clément's film, made in 1959, is not taut enough, but Delon's prettiness, the light, bright colours of Henri Decaë's camerawork and the period flavouring all bring their own small pleasures.

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Tentative American tourists

For its first visit to Britain in almost two decades, San Francisco Ballet has chosen Balanchine to showcase its talents. Tuesday's opening night programme (sponsored by Dunfermline Building Society) features two Balanchine works, bold, supple, examples of 20th-century ballet. But if they brought us the opportunity to rejoice yet again in choreography of the very highest order, they also revealed a company not quite comfortable with Balanchine's magnificence.

Stravinsky Violin Concerto, which the master made for New York City Ballet's Stravinsky Festival in 1972, is a testing abstract work which brilliantly subverts the precepts of classical construction. Hips are aggressively thrust in pointed rebuke to elegantly academic lines; feet are turned from decoratively arched flourishes into assertively flexed starting points for cock-eyed movement. And yet the anarchy of such writing resides firmly within a highly sophisticated classical language.

Like the music, the dance is in four parts, with an opening and closing section for the ensemble and two central pas de deux which define the work's striking personality.

The first is a duet for two dancers (Muriel Maffre and Chidzoe Nzemba), who are not concerned with connecting. They are aloof and testy, possibly angry, and certainly more anxious to express their own singularity than to celebrate the pleasure of partnership.

The second pas de deux (here danced by Karin Waldo and Benjamin Pierce) sets up a contrasting relationship. This couple are drawn to each other's warmth — he is tender and supportive, she is yielding and soft.

Although they are at home with the Balanchine language, the company could not quite muster the attack or indeed the glamour of the choreographer's intention. In the end the choreography was fascinat-

DANCE



ing (because it is), but the dancing was not.

The glamour of *Symphony in C* is unmistakable. Made in 1947 for the Paris Opera Ballet, it is an utterly dazzling display of cultured dance inspired by Béjart's glorious score (played by a robust Royal Scottish National Orchestra, conducted by Émile de Cou). If there is one thing you need for *Symphony in C* it is overwhelming confidence. It is no good being tentative when Balanchine is out there going full blast, taking 19th-century academic dance on the ride of its life.

Yes, the final movement did thrill on Tuesday night — with 40 dancers whizzing through such a spectacle of accelerated classicism, how could we fail to be excited? And yes, the company did reveal an impressive depth.

But where was the jubilation? Where was the sparkle?

In between these two choreographic marvels, Helgi Tomasson, San Francisco Ballet's artistic director, inserted his own *Sonata*. Danced to Rachmaninov's Sonata for Cello and Piano (with cellist David Kadaraugh and pianist Roy Bogas on stage), Tomasson's trifl offers a mushy alternative to Balanchine's incisive brilliance.

Sonata is a melancholic mood piece whose long, faecid phrases of dance hint at emotional turning points without ever bringing them to life.

Outstanding amid the blandness, though, was Joanna Berman, lusly lyrical dancer whose distinctive presence provided a real focal point. She, at least, was on top form.

DEBRA CRAINE

Cockney rebel's greatest miss

If small is beautiful, Steven Berkoff really should pack in his solo tours de force immediately, because there's little beauty left in his world, and his poetry of the street simply doesn't ring true any more. The UK premiere of *Massage* starts promisingly enough, with Berkoff — dragged up grotesquely to the tunes like the piano dame he may yet end up being — in full pout as the backstreet masseuse performing extras for her clapped-out clientele.

What follows is a meticulous and cruel dissection of the English attitude to sex, via outmoded notions of domestic bliss and backstreet love which look something between archaic and extinct. For, while no one is denying that the sauna trade is booming, the sex, rather than being grubby and desperate is presented as a nudge nudge anachronism to be made light of, while Berkoff's depiction of working-class life is seen no doubt through back doors by a Berkoff looking back on his own humble boyhood — is cheaply patronising.

Barry Philips, Berkoff's foil,

is just as guilty of cheapening things, and neither seems to have moved on since their glory days, when chirpy Cockneys were a novelty.

The only truth comes via Berkoff's typically top-shelf gynaecological soliloquies, and it was fascinating to note that, while the acolytes swallowed everything whole, the cut-glass laughter that accompanied the domestic scenes was soon silenced by the fleshier bits.

Anyone who thinks this is shocking should get out more.

Berkoff needs to learn that sex these days is far more complicated and relationships far more fractured than when he was a lad. Benny Hill died a long time ago.

And so to *Flux*, the musical boot up the backside Edinburgh has been waiting for for donkey's years. Having had the big boys from down south in already, Tuesday night was local heroes' night, or rather Glasgow heroes' night, as all three bands that noised on the bill had jumped the great East Coast-West Coast divide and made Edinburgh their own.

AS THE boar of observational humour sinks under the revelation that there is nothing left to observe, the salvation of comedy comes from some odd quarters.

Comedy is the new cruelty, and *Club Zarathustra* (Pleasure) has a firm grip on the electric cattle prod. This cabaret is populated by black-clad sub-men in severe wigs, Romans in fluorescent fur, drunk women threatening to strip and the last man on earth, mixed in with aphorisms ("What was the greatest crime of the 20th century? It was Birmingham") and music from the Opera Device.

There is something infinitely pleasing about hearing a serious operatic soprano belting out lyrics so filthy that even Schmitz's ears would shrivel up. Although occasionally too clever for its own good, Club Z balances the supreme arrogance of the League Against Tedium with honest-to-God silliness and fart jokes. The audience is made to wear dunce's caps, disinfected with spray guns, humiliated, paraded and finally forced out of the auditorium by the spectacle of the entire cast dribbling on to the stage.

The show relies heavily on computer technology to keep the music booming and the slogans flashing up on screens, but at its core is a solid mix of sketches, jokes and songs. The multimedia side is integrated perfectly with the live action and, while it keeps moving at a rapid

FRINGE

The Delgados' spiky boy/girl pop has come of age of late, and is now right as a tick.

The fact that Chemical Underground, their collage industry record label, appears to be building the most interesting roster in Scotland has given the band both confidence and credibility points.

Vocalist Alan Woodward's between-song banter is lifted straight from the Stephen Pastel school of stage deportment — while his vocal partner Emma Pollock seems uncharacteristically piggish — but they deliver a set that cuts through the Scottish Sonic Youth comparisons and should make them pop stars in their own right.

The mock Baroque flourishes of only occasionally audible flute and celli helped them swoop and soar in the heat of the Jaffa Cake, where *Thirteen Gliding Principles* proved still to be their best song. Only just mind.

Mogwai's bass-driven instrumental slabs of glory crashed through the night, with a driven guitar assault

STYLICIDE



Members of the San Francisco Ballet struggle to muster the necessary attack and glamour for Balanchine's brilliant but testing work, *Stravinsky Violin Concerto*

Climbing under the lid

CONCERTS

The Portuguese pianist Maria João Pires has let it be known that she would just as soon spend the whole rather than just half of the year on her farm, making it self-sufficient so that she will never have to go out to work again. The sense that she may be here today, gone tomorrow — that at any time her fresh, intensely musical and intensely individual playing might just vanish for ever from earshot — makes her performances all the more to be cherished.

That sense of living in a borrowed moment met its match in her concert at the Usher Hall in the Schubert she chose to play: the Four Impromptus D899 and the Three Moments musicaux D780.

The Impromptus, for all their structural skill and emotional depth, live most fully when they

live up to their name, and in Pires's

fingers they certainly did. The single line plaint at the start of the C minor work hovered in the air as if improvised by a distant folk singer; the song of the G flat major seemed spun out of dreams; and the cascading figuration of the A flat major positively levitated above some of the lightest left-hand playing this piece can have known.

Pires, who strode on stage in homespun smock and heavy boots, also found the red blood pounding at the heart of these works. The second Impromptu pulsed with an inner anguish.

It was quite a day. In the morning, the Queen's Hall saw the assembling of five musicians, any one of whom would have packed out the house. Violinists Joshua Bell and Pamela Frank, viola player Tabea Zimmermann, cellist

Steven Isserlis and pianist Stephen Hough joined forces for a highly charged performance of Elgar's Piano Quintet. Before that, Bell, Isserlis and Hough had played a remarkably broad, serene Mendelssohn Piano Trio No 1, prefaced by something of a discovery: Martini's *Three Madrigals* for violin and viola played by Frank and Zimmermann.

At night fell and the windows of Greyfriars Kirk began to illuminate the nether end of town, even rarer sounds could be heard from the old Grey Covenanters' church. This was no less than a Latin Mass by the erstwhile "Canon of Scone", Robert Carver, born in 1484.

Or was it? Having promised us

"magnificent Renaissance polyphony" by a Scottish contemporary of Tallis, Andrew Parrott and his Taverner Consort disclosed in their programme note that the mass *Canticus Domino* was anonymous, possibly a reworking of another Mass, and that Carver's music, housed in the National Library of Scotland, was in a glorious muddle as regards sources, completions and chronology.

Be that as it may, the reconstruction we heard revealed a rich and strange fusion of late-medieval decorative style — ravishing writing for high soprano and devilish business for bass — and ecstatic High Renaissance counterpoint. Parrott's robust direction of his band of brightly coloured voices set this pivotal style into high relief.

HILARY FINCH

A funny business, cruelty

COMEDY

pace, the show is proof that material does not need to be dumbed down to entertain the audience with laughter.

More low-tech but clever also is *In Love 2 (Gilded Balloon)*, a two-person sketch show about sex and love. Janie Anderson and Gregg Fleet keep the dialogue minimal, but when it comes to it is beautifully written and often poignant: "Many times, when I thought Sylvie had been looking into my eyes, she had just been looking."

While most contemporary comedy takes the situation and tries to universalise it, Anderson and Fleet take one basic scenario of boy meets girl and test it through hundreds of permutations. The mixture of characters is wonderful, in particular the woman who falls in love with a fireman and has to keep setting fire to her house so that he can come to rescue her.

What the show manages to capture are the moments of lost logic that love generates, both as it begins and as it ends. A woman who suspects her boyfriend of having an affair asks plaintively: "Why didn't he at least have the decency to empty the ash tray?" Another character admits: "All my best relationships have been with men that I didn't particularly care about, and all my worst have been with men I did."

Much of the humour lies in the accomplished performances, in particular Anderson's expressive face, and the perfectly judged bashes. Apart from a cracking soundtrack, which ranges from Radiohead to Mozart, and a slide projector, *In Love 2* uses no clever tricks, but manages nonetheless to be cruel, personal and funny.

Fleet also has a solo show (*Gilded Balloon*) which follows the fortunes of an old man in a tower block, mingled with memories from Fleet's real and surreal childhood. Sad and funny, it covers everything from collective LSD hallucinations to the boyhood discovery that "hurting yourself in the nude was the ultimate in humour".

The shortlist for this year's Perrier Award for Comedy is: *The League of Gentlemen*, Al Murray, Milton Jones, Johnny Vegas and Graham Norton. The winner will be announced next week.

HETTY JUDAH

REWARDING TIMES

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THE TIMES

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Fighting his nature's opposition

Roy Jenkins on the ambiguous career of a contradictory politician

This is the first full (but not excessive) length biography of Cripps since 1957, although there had been three before that and during his lifetime, which ended in 1952. There is thus quite a gap to be filled, for Cripps was, with Ernest Bevin (whose fame has weathered better) one of the two pillars which upheld the arch of the Attlee Government. Moreover, he had a varied, indeed disjointed career which did not just depend upon its 1947-50 climax, and those of whom this is true mostly make the more rewarding biographical subjects: Disraeli, say, compared with Bonapart Law, or Balfour compared with Nigel Lawson — there was not much juice in the latter two of each pair outside their comparatively brief periods of high office.

How well does Chris Bryant fill the gap? The answer, I think, is that at the macro level he does so very well indeed, but at the micro level a great deal less so (these jargonistic terms are not inappropriate to Cripps, who in spite of his brilliance as an advocate never had much feel for elegance of language and was moreover the Chancellor to introduce an economic planning department into the Treasury).

The macro is of course by definition more important than the micro, and by Bryant's success at this level I mean that he understands Cripps well, sometimes writing paragraphs of great penetration about him. *He avoids hagiography by a wide margin*; he has done more than adequate research into the lay-bys of Cripps's life, such as his oddly motivated although grandly executed round-the-world tour (mainly India, China with an offshoot to Russia) in, of all periods to choose, the autumn, winter and early spring of 1939-40, or his immersion in aircraft types during his antislamic but highly competent years as Minister of Aircraft Production from 1942 to 1945. Bryant maintains throughout a high sense of proportion and a good narrative swing. By his micro faults I mean first that, while

his style is in general a good enough vehicle for telling his story, it frequently erupts into wild infelicities in the choice of words. Some of them, such as "workerist" as an adjective in front of rhetoric, simply do not exist. Others, such as Cripps's attempts to "superglue" the Labour Party to its socialist pretensions are ugly without being illuminating. And a few more are inappropriate: "not a peach job" is hardly either necessary.

STAFFORD CRIPPS
The First Modern Chancellor
By Chris Bryant
Hodder & Stoughton, £25
ISBN 0 340 67892 5

or well-chosen as a description of the embassy to Moscow in 1940-41.

Also, although the core of his research has been thorough, inaccuracies of nomenclature and sometimes of more important facts betray, at the edges, a lack of instinctive familiarity with the period. G. D. H. Cole described himself as such, but was Douglas his intimate and never "George Cole" to anybody. Mr Bryant fails several times to do this. Furthermore, Orwell and not Hemingway wrote *Homage to Catalonia*. Lytton Strachey was certainly not a former Labour MP, and Douglas Jay was never Minister of Pensions.

Nevertheless, Bryant is very skilled or lucky at confounding the weaknesses of his book to such inessentials. He has a good feel

for the curious ambiguity of Cripps's career. This had no natural progression. Although he came of a political family, Cripps took no part in politics until he was over 40. The first Labour Government and the General Strike both left him undeflected from his legal practice, which was as specialised as it was successful, concentrated upon complicated commercial actions. Church affairs were almost his only diversion during that period.

Then he came into the Labour Party with a golden spoon in his mouth. He was imposed upon a Bristol constituency in order that he might immediately take his place on the second MacDonald Government's front bench as Solicitor-General. After a brief post-1931 period in a triumvirate of leadership of the almost annihilated parliamentary leadership he plunged further and further to the left. The content of his statements, still delivered in a precise legal voice, became increasingly shrill. The clerk of the Labour establishment became a self-appointed tribune of the minority. In 1939 he was expelled from the Labour Party, and remained an isolated but at times extremely powerful voice until 1945. As ambassador to Moscow he fortuitously became the symbol of successful Russian resistance to Hitler. There was a short period, in 1942, when it almost seemed as though he might replace Churchill. Then his star faded, and he served for the rest of the war as an effective but essentially peripheral departmental minister.

By the beginning of the Attlee Government he was back in communion with official Labour and rose inexorably over the next two years to be the dominating economic minister. As an austere but commanding Chancellor he became the embodiment of responsible government and self-disciplined patriotism. The connection between this dedicated servant of the State and the unanchored agitator of the Thirties became difficult to recall. It was almost as though the Russians, during his embassy,



The signing of the Burma Treaty, 1947: Cripps, Thakin Nu, Attlee and Bevin

had performed some motiveless feat of substitution.

Cripps's authority again became great, but longer-lasting than in 1942. Supporting his economic leadership was the major role which he had played in negotiating Indian independence. Seven years Attlee's junior, it seemed plausible in 1948 and 1949 that he might be his successor. Maybe this would not have occurred in any event. He had many of the qualities of leadership, but they were balanced by a lack of common sense and an inability to see problems in perspective. He was at once clever and naive, penetrating and unsuspecting.

Roy Jenkins's *Gladstone* is published in paperback by Papermac, priced £10.

Roy Porter is swamped by the details of a scientist's life

When the value of facts is only relative

Albert Einstein became a myth in his own lifetime — the theorist of relativity, the Nobel laureate, the greatest physicist of the 20th century, the tireless pacifist. Absent-minded, unworldly, with that memorable mane of white hair, that droopy moustache that twinkle in his eye, he became not just the world's idea of scientific genius but the acceptable face of science in the age of the Bomb. But what was the life behind the legend? Actuality was more intriguing than image, as the German physicist and writer Albrecht Fölsing documents in exhaustingly detail.

Contrary to myth, Einstein was not a failure at school. But there was something self-generated about the intense passion for physics which he carried from childhood to the grave. The solitary voyaging of the pioneer — at first forced upon him, later self-created — sustained his sense of wonder at nature and preserved his childlike confidence in his own prodigious powers.

Also contrary to myth, Einstein's abiding sense of being an outsider had little, initially at least, to do with being a Jew forced to make his way in a Gentile world. Though German-born, young Albert received most of his education and gained his first posts in

Switzerland; there, and later in Prague where he took a chair, his ethnic origins proved little handicap and, like many Jews around 1900, he was rather eager (perhaps like Freud) to forget about the religion and the Jewish culture of his family. Indeed he married, his first wife being a Greek Orthodox Serb. What truly fuelled his sense of being a loner was his profound antipathy to the chauvinism gripping even his fellow scientists.

ALBERT EINSTEIN
A Biography
By Albrecht Fölsing
Viking, £25
ISBN 0 670 85545 6

tiers in the run-up to the First World War. Einstein, who adopted Swiss citizenship, could never fathom why a person's nationality was of any significance.

How then was it that in due course he became a leading campaigner for Zionism? It was the upsurge of vicious anti-Semitism in post-1918 Germany that stirred his dominant sense of Jewish identity and led him, once he had become the world's most famous scientist — indeed, the world's most famous Jew — to

campaign not for "Israel", yet another chauvinist nation state, but for turning Palestine into a cultural homeland for the Jews.

Attacked by anti-Semites and militant Zionists alike, Einstein was probably no more adroit at politics than at marriage. But his indiscretions somehow never mattered with the wider public, anxious to clutch hold of the coat-tails of genius, and delighted to find that such a brain could be lovesome, approachable, and humble, something like a cross between Christ and Chaplin, a latter-day holy fool.

All this is meticulously recorded in this monster book, which, at risk of national stereotyping, could be said to have all the virtues of Prussian thoroughness (not to mention the wooden translation). The trouble is that livelier biographies have appeared recently, and Fölsing cannot outgun them with unspiced sources or dazzling psychological insights.

The reader craves to be let into the secret of Einstein's psyche. From Arthur Koestler to Adrian Desmond, science biographers have given us windows onto scientists' minds. Fölsing, by contrast, rarely rises above a recital of Einstein's appointments diary.

You can be too polite
A. L. Kennedy

THE NINE LIVES OF NAOMI MITCHISON
By Jenni Calder
Viking, £20
ISBN 1 85381 724 4

A New Statesman review of Naomi Mitchison's novel *Cloud Cuckoo Land* runs "... she has the ease that definiteness of success, which shows that failure was not even thinkable: she does not make a book, it is there, real, solid, intimidating." The same might be said of Mitchison herself. Long claimed as a Scottish author, Mitchison has been an alarming gold standard beside which the achievements of other Scottish writers tend to shrivel. She is a hard, if not impossible, act to follow. Her pursuit of excellence is a simple and often unselfconscious part of her nature, but it is also capable of producing the kind of awe which makes Calder a very polite biography of a — quite frequently — very impolite lady.

Now in her 100th year Mitchison has embraced a life of remarkable passion, commitment and sheer activity. Born in the genteel, intellectual Haldane dynasty, she became a nurse in the First World War, stunned International Brigades with lectures on safe sex and energetically farmed her way through the Second World War. She charmed, infuriated, campaigned and wrote among Chelsea Bohemians, Carradale fisherman, Botswana villagers and parliamentary wives. Novelist, journalist, poet, playwright, she has pro-



Mitchison stands alone

duced more than 70 books, been mother to seven children and enjoyed one husband and several lovers.

Liaisons apart, Mitchison loved to stand alone. Having capsized a canoe she was learning to paddle, she answered her gentlemanly instructor's "I'll rescue you" with "No you won't". She felt herself constantly in danger of being a possession within relationships. Her desire was to have all the virtues of Prussian thoroughness (not to mention the wooden translation). The trouble is that livelier biographies have appeared recently, and Fölsing cannot outgun them with unspiced sources or dazzling psychological insights.

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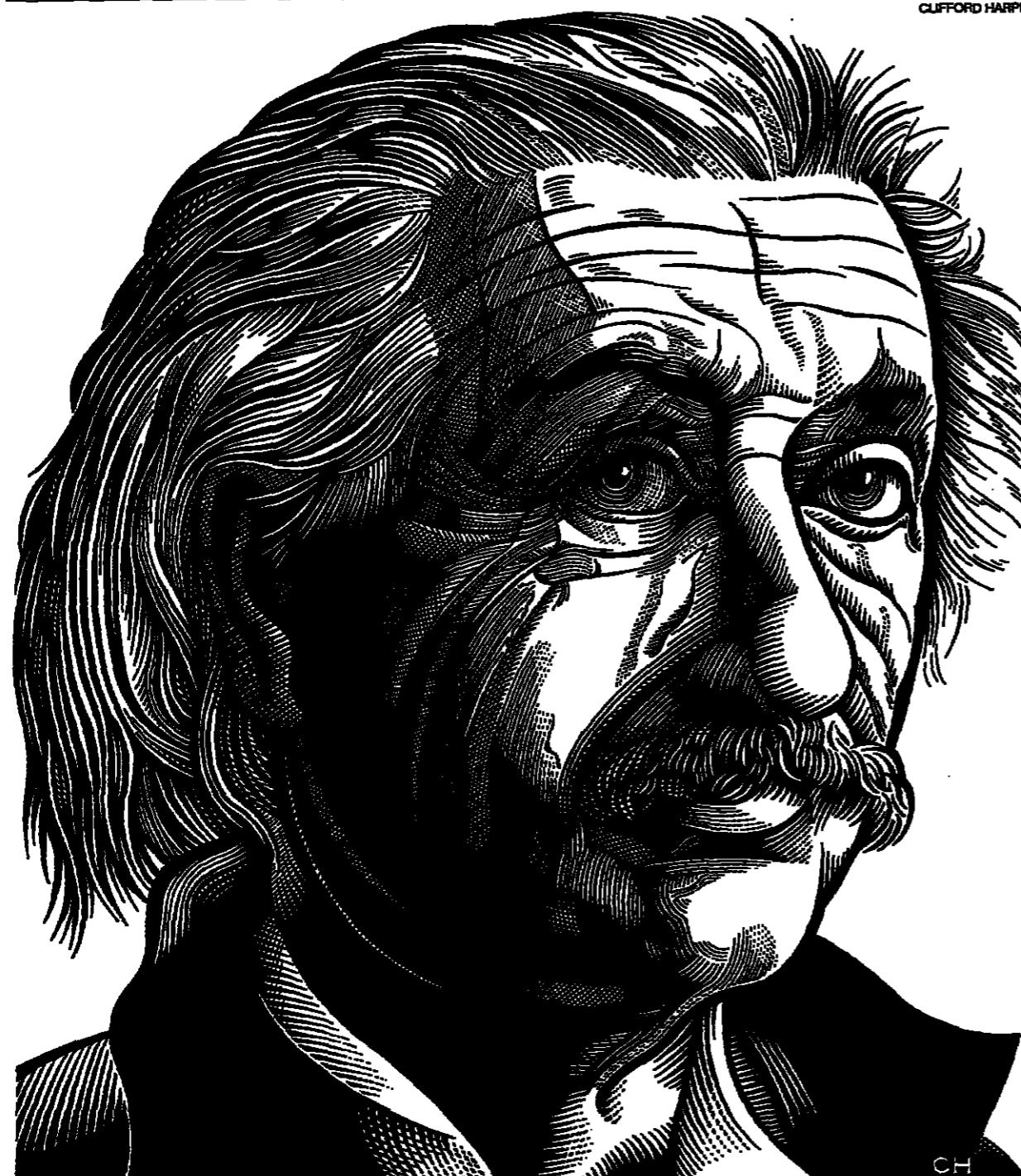
The literary establishment never forgave her postwar move to Scotland, long before Scottish writing became sexy. Readers may note that the London-centred, male-orientated literary culture described is not entirely unfamiliar today.

On these and other points, Calder relies fairly uncritically on Mitchison's undoubted abilities as an autobiographer. Mitchison is quoted as saying: "All my life I have been very much in the hands of the books I was writing... any of what I did was also part of a book." Far be it from me to suggest that you can trust what any writer says in this area about as far as you can spit hot wax... but there are times when Calder seems frustratingly content to accept the image. Mitchison presents without further question.

I abhor the second-guesses of pop psychological biographers and don't suggest that Calder should have done a knife job on an admirable woman. But Mitchison, a writer fearlessly and clinically interested in her own and other's motivations, might sometimes have deserved a little more investigation.

Not that this isn't an immensely readable book, "detailed enough to set up historical context without being stodgy, and well-disposed to the subject without being idolatrous". A decision has been taken to concentrate more on the life and less on the artistic process, but this has produced a work which will encourage readers to rediscover Mitchison's writing for themselves — something I applaud wholeheartedly.

A. L. Kennedy's *Original Bits* is published by Cape, priced £14.99.



The familial crises of two Cuban misses

Rachel Campbell-Johnston

THE AGÜERO SISTERS
By Cristina García
Picador, £15.99
ISBN 0 330 35201 6

manufacturing beauty products, her chief concern is to stave off women's "little everyday deaths". "If politics have betrayed the Cubans and geography overlooked them, her Cuerpo de Cuba products still manage to touch the pink roots of their sadness."

Though the two sisters seem so different, they are rooted in a Cuban past which draws them together. The voices of their parents — two biologists whose life of shared passion ended in sudden and violent death — provides a context for their daughters' voices. Together they shape a mesmerising — if bewildering — portrait of a family whose lives reflect the mood and history of Cuba.

This is a loose, drifting novel. Curiously, and often irritatingly, nebulous, the plot hangs on memories and emotions, magic and impossible turns of fate. To try to pin it down is to lose it. "You don't know how much of what you see, *mi hija*, you never see at all," Reina's mother says. But always a strong sense of reality twists through the dreams. History forms a harsh bedrock to this tale.

The mind behind the apron

FEW organisations can have inspired such suspicion, irritation and fascination as Freemasonry. Masons have been condemned by the Roman Catholic Church as the enemies of religion; they have been accused of engaging in a worldwide conspiracy; their secret practices arouse both derision and dread: they have been associated with some of the wilder speculations about the origins of Christianity, featuring the Turin Shroud, the Knights Templar, Holy Blood and Holy Grail.

Karen Armstrong
WHO'S AFRAID OF
FREEMASONS?
The Phenomenon of
Freemasonry
By Alexander Piatigorsky
Harvill, £25
ISBN 1 86046 029 1

Alexander Piatigorsky has attempted an academic exploration of Freemasonry as a religious, intellectual and social phenomenon. He examines the myths and rituals of the Lodge in comparative perspective, showing their similarity to elements in Buddhism, ancient Semitic religion as well as to Christianity. He also outlines the history of Freemasonry from its official emergence in the early 18th century and discusses the significance of the Masons' belief that their society can be traced back to Cain, who built the rationalism of the Enlightenment and an attempt to cast some of its precepts into an alternative form. Thus the syncretism of Freemasonry, which blends many diverse religious strains, can be compared to the Deism of the *philosophes*, which also sought to transcend the narrower confines of dogmatic faith.

Again, the Freemasons' emphasis on history can be seen in much the same light as later attempts by Hegel or Marx to discern the underlying theme that impels history forward. Piatigorsky shows that the Masons' rewriting of world history was a philosophical rather than a factual exercise, intended as a symbolic manifestation of a trans-historical power that forms history but is not formed by it.

Indeed, like other religious movements, Freemasonry may well provide rituals and myths that enable people to cope with the peculiar stress and paradox of Western



Lodge concern: a Freemason General

modernity. The great merit of Piatigorsky's book is his refusal to patronise Masons and his scrupulous attempt to see their ideas on their own terms. Perhaps any attempt to articulate rationally an esoteric philosophy, which of its very nature can only make sense to initiates and which appeals to a level beneath the cerebral and the conscious, is doomed to make it seem even more incomprehensible to outsiders than it is in practice.

You can
be too
polite

A. L. Kennedy

Paradise amidst suburbia

Roy Strong strolls through a stately work on Windsor

One of my more hilarious memories of the gardens and parks of Windsor is of a crew arriving to film the East Garden of the Castle and no one knowing where the switch which worked the fountain was to be located. Sadly the fountain known to Queen Victoria had been handed over to Kew Gardens, replaced in this reign by a hideous bronze lotus.

That anecdote in a way sums up the history of almost anything royal. Inevitably, even in the case of parks and gardens, interest ebbs and flows as much as the availability of cash. And taste and aesthetic flair equally comes and goes. In this sense parks and gardens are far more vulnerable than buildings through the damage which can be done by sheer neglect.

Being enmeshed into the Royal Household (she is Curator of the Print Room in the Royal Library at Windsor Castle) Jane Roberts knows all of this only too well, but it has informed her sharp mind from uttering, for example, a word of criticism about the actions of her present employers, such as the demolition of most of the famous Victorian Kitchen Garden buildings. But this in no way detracts from a masterly volume which is essentially one of reference. Nonetheless, great pleasure is to be derived from the superb accumulation of visual evidence and the equally elegant presentation characteristics of Yale University Press.

Windsor Great Park and the smaller area to the north, Home Park, today consists of some 5,500 acres. This is the story of a remarkable continuity — more, I think, than any other royal domain: for this was once part of the hunting forest of the Norman kings. Yet today there is little that pre-dates the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660. To that era belongs the Long Walk, the spectacular avenue which strides away from the Castle to the Great Park. Everything else from the Baroque era has vanished, including the miles of rides along which the chaise bearing the comely Queen Anne bowed in pursuit of deer.

In this century only Sir Eric Savill has added anything of substance with his between-the-wars gardens of flowering

ROYAL LANDSCAPE
The Gardens and Parks of Windsor
By Jane Roberts
Yale, £25
ISBN 0 300 07099 9

The park today is largely a monument to three members of the House of Hanover. The first is "Butcher" Cumberland who, in the aftermath of Culloden, set about transforming the landscape with temples, grottoes and eye-catchers. His greatest creation was the under-appreciated Virginia Water, the largest artificial lake ever made in Georgian England. The second is George III's Queen, Charlotte. To her we owe the enchantments of Frogmore House and the paradise surrounding it, a delight obscured by the gloom of Victoria and Albert's mausoleum.

Number three, the prodigal George VI, should have left more of a mark than he did.

Here he hid himself away with his mistresses at Royal Lodge,

hurting by secret ways down to his Disneyland Chinese Temple built to enable royalty and the paramour of royalty to "angle for minnows and sticklebacks". Not only has this gone, but all of Royal Lodge, too, bar one room. His East Terrace Garden, changed, remains at the Castle, as does the once glorious Ruins of Leptis Magna, by Virginia Water, today a very sorry sight crying out for restoration.

By then the Great Park was a symbol of much that would have brought the monarchy humbling had it not been for Queen Victoria, the Prince Consort. Everything, now, had to be done for profit and information. Model farms were built, the labouring classes cared for, prize cattle bred, and steam-powered machinery introduced. Even shades of our own age, chemical fertilisers were used. The Prince saw farming as an "industrial pursuit requiring capital, machinery and industry".

In this century only Sir Eric Savill has added anything of substance with his between-the-wars gardens of flowering



Loving care: repairing the imposing Copper Horse, erected by George IV in memory of his father, in 1969

shrubs. What is so striking is that it took the monarchy centuries to attain privacy but, once achieved, the forces of democracy eroded it again. These pressures have never ceased. Indeed, the Queen has annually to open her only private garden, the cemetery of Frogmore. What will happen in the new reign to this oasis in what has become suburbia is intriguing to speculate. In the meantime, Jane Roberts has provided everyone connected with Windsor Great Park with a magisterial work of reference by which to govern its management in the future.

Held in bondage to event

David Dabydeen

FEEDING THE GHOSTS.
By Fred D'Aguiar
Chatto & Windus, £14.99
ISBN 0 7011 6663 1

In September 1781, the Liverpool ship Zong left the coast of Africa for Jamaica with 470 slaves on board. By November, more than 60 slaves had died, and the captain decided to dispose of half the rest who were sick by throwing them overboard. English law at the time, the captain believed, would define them as goods lost at sea, and their insurance value would be recoverable. When the claim was lodged in London, the underwriters refused to pay up, a court case ensued, and the captain won. Abolitionists like Granville Sharp described the death of the Africans as "a flagrant offence against God and against all mankind". He pressed for the captain and his crew to be prosecuted for murder, but no such action was entertained by the courts.

The Zong case received considerable publicity in England, and many anti-slavery tracts used it as an example of the barbarity to which the English nation had sunk in its commercial greed. Popular ballads exploited its lurid sensational details, and helped to bring the Abolition movement to the attention of the common people. The most famous work inspired by Zong was Turner's painting *The Slave Ship*, exhibited at the Royal Academy



The suffering sea: Turner's *The Slave Ship* expresses the horror of slavery indirectly

in 1840. It was, according to Ruskin, his greatest work in the sublime style. In *The Slave Ship*, the act of inhumanity is commemorated in the epic raging of the elements. The very sea and sky are caught up in *monumental suffering*. The 19th century produced no greater testimony to the cruelty of the African trade than Turner's painting.

Turner's work raised questions about how best to represent slavery, which are still relevant today. Artists like Blake dwelt in detail on the gross abuse of the African body, but Turner avoided the physical altogether, preferring to let the viewer imagine the horrors of slavery. Black writers of our time have faced a similar challenge. Charles Johnson, in his magnificent novel *The Middle Passage*, chose Turner's path, his prose conveying the epic energy of the sea. A novel on slavery, it is consciously more "fiction" than fiction. Captain Collingwood, villain of the piece, has

yarn, Johnson packing his narrative with vivid descriptions of storms and creating characters whose erudition and philosophical ruminations deliberately break the frame of realism. Like Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, Johnson's interest is as much in the writing of slavery, as in slavery itself. He plays with language with the exuberance and inventiveness of a poet.

Fred D'Aguiar, a fine poet, strenuously avoids lyrical treatment of slavery in his new novel. The sublimity of Turner, the proto-Expressionism of Blake and the magical realism of Johnson and Morrison are not for him. He chooses a documentary style, giving us the facts and the figures of the Zong episode, and not bothering much with the creation of character or colour. It is a novel that is consciously more "faction" than fiction. Captain Collingwood, villain of the piece, has

Different from the rest of us

Lesley Chamberlain

EXTRAORDINARY MINDS
By Howard Gardner
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £11.99
ISBN 0 297 64513

What makes the kind of extraordinary person who changes the way we think, listen, write or view the world? And is it something science can and should measure? Howard Gardner, who holds chairs of education and neurology at Harvard and Boston, believes extraordinary people have common characteristics: they reflect continually on their human condition and their work, they lever themselves forward by concentrating on their strengths and bypassing their weaknesses, and they almost revel in their setbacks.

The Master type, Mozart, is possessed by "the skill, the personality, the will, indeed the rage" to bring his art to perfection. His struggle with his father and established taste is less interesting than the fact that music fills his being, that composing is less fatiguing than resting, and that his artistic personality always retains the childlike alongside the adult. Freud doesn't perfect but creates new areas of knowledge. He is the exemplary Maker, driven, addicted to his work, and quick to recover from criticism. Others are drawn into his orbit at their peril.

Enthralled by classifying, system-building and problem-solving, he is above all a problem finder. The architect Virginia Woolf is a similarly driven pioneer, wanting to explore and spell out how it feels to be conscious, but her domain is herself. "An accelerator but no brakes" in Quentin Bell's phrase, she surfs the highs of manic depression, and has clear, true vision in its troughs. Family problems add to her inwardness. She, whose life would end in suicide, is less than exemplary in dealing with criticism and adversity.

Gandhi, the influencer, is at once far more oriented towards other people, and perceptive of their motives, than the other three types. His drive is to speak up, to risk his position in the group, to examine his own values and set new standards. If you want to be extraordinary you should live in the right age, when a rush of new ideas waits to be synthesised. Better, understand the uses of failure and introspection and wrestle with tension, don't solve it. And I would say, though Gardner neglects the topics, you should

also be ill and be lonely.

This is a peculiarly mixed-up, ill-tuned book, which at times reads like a careers guidance booklet and feels like an approach to the altar in wellies. Its "scientific" quality is less obvious than its decency. Gardner perhaps remembers, as I do, those Good Lives that were the stuff of junior school silent reading, and before the sexuality of Florence Nightingale was un-



Woolf, Gandhi: genius

masked. While acknowledging the pain extraordinary people often cause, he is right to admire genius and look at its benign, pedagogical aspects. Egalitarian or perhaps just cynical colleagues on the Post-Modern bandwagon who accuse Gardner of betraying the genius of Joe Soap, seem wrong to the point of betraying the human race.

But this book is too small for its aims, too painfully pedestrian in style, and lacks reference to older research into greatness. Above all, I think to Freud's erstwhile colleague Adler: "The theory of overcompensation for weaknesses took Mozart as one of its greatest exemplars."

TLS

THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

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THE TIMES THURSDAY AUGUST 21 1997

SPORT 39

RACING: ODDS-ON DEFEAT OF REAMS OF VERSE IN YORKSHIRE OAKS ADDS TO DISAPPOINTING RESULTS FOR WARREN PLACE TEAM

BY CHRIS MCGRATH

IT HAPPENED to be Henry Cecil, but he can rest assured that he was not alone. "Not my week, I'm afraid," he said. "I think I'll go home now." The trainer, doubtless, consoled himself that he would, at least, miss the traffic. But the way to do that is York yesterday was to stay to the bitter end. For the others prepared to do so must have been bookmakers — and their cars, so heavily laden, will have been easily left behind.

Cecil had just watched Reams of Verse follow Boos Sham, the previous day, in failing to land the odds — and over £200,000 in bets — in a group one race. Then, an hour later, his Bold Fact surrendered the lead close home when hot favourite for the Scottish Equitable Gimcrack Stakes.

In between those disappointments for Warren Place, punters had sought a way back in the Tote-Ebor Handicap, only to see the first and second favourites beaten in a photo-finish by a 33-1 shot, Far

Ahead. Shortly afterwards, the bookmakers put up their umbrellas as a light rain filled the humid air — when pennies from heaven take the form of banknotes, however, you don't really need protection.

Reams of Verse, running for the first time since winning the Oaks, was returning to the scene of her spectacular Musidora Stakes' success at the May meeting. But she had

Timekeeper, the new ratings service compiled by James Willoughby, pinpointed Far Ahead (33-1) and Chimaider (6-1) at York yesterday.

her cutting edge blunted in the Aiston Upthorpe Yorkshire Oaks by the fierce gallop shrewdly ordered by Michael Stoute for Crown Of Light and Whitewater. The latter, a nudge among racehorses, stretched her lead courageously in the straight — but My Emma, having only her seventh race at the age of four, scythed through the field to lead just before the post.

"I said to the wife that I'd be back around six," he said. "But I did add that, if we won the Ebor, she could expect me

Reams Of Verse, going easily on the home turn, fell to pieces and finished fourth. "She was cantering two out and suddenly hit a wall," Cecil said. "She didn't stay. When she won the Oaks they were fiddling about and she didn't have to race until late on."

Rae Guest has given My Emma a light campaign, with the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe specifically in mind, and she is quoted 20-1 for Longchamp by Coral and William Hill. "The only thing that beats her is if they don't go far enough," Guest said. "She loves taking horses on, and the faster they go, the easier it is to pick them off."

It was likewise the biggest day in the career of another modest operation when Les Eyré saddled the Ebor winner. It was, in the circumstances, an understandably muted reception for what should have been a local hero — Eyré is based at Hambleton Stables 30 miles away.

"I said to the wife that I'd be back around six," he said. "But I did add that, if we won the Ebor, she could expect me

some time on Tuesday. For a Yorkshireman, this is the pinnacle, the greatest day of my life."

There was less in the way of euphoria from Barry Hills. He had told John Grant — with the trainer, co-owner of Carknowed — that they should accept an offer from Sheikh Mohammed's brother-in-law, Marwan Al-Maktoum, for their colt. After he wrested the lead back from Bold Fact in the Gimcrack Hills confessed that he had believed them to have made "the sale of the century." Earlier, moreover, Hills had saddled Amyas to win the open. "I backed him the last twice, when he was unlucky, to win £20,000," he revealed. "I didn't have a penny on him today."

That sort of day, all round, then — by the time of the sixth, the Roses Stakes, there was an air of desperation as the favourite was sent off at 11-8 on. He was — for those who had not grasped that the rub of the turf was against them — called Titanic. He was also, needless to say, unplaced.



Far Ahead, noseband, gets the better of the blinkered Media Star in the Ebor Handicap at York yesterday

THUNDERER	
2.05 Dantesque	3.45 Great Child
2.35 Embassy	4.15 Designer
3.10 Averti	4.45 Kallama
Timekeeper's top rating: 3.45 JO MELL	5.15 POTEEN (nep)

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.35 Shuhrah, 3.45 THE PRINCE (nep), 4.15 Designer.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.05 LABDOKE KNAVESMIRE HANICAP

(£17,220; 1m 3f 195yd) (15 runners).

C4	
101 (2) 6-5-02 16/1 EMBASSY 18 (GB) 6 (S) 4 (GB) P. Hobbs 0-13	C Letherer
102 (1) 11-20/01 2000/01 CELESTIAL CHOR 14 (CD) 6 (F) (M) C. Sykes 1-3 Eyes 7-8	0 Pines
103 (5) 5-22/01 2000/01 DANTIQUE 14 (GB) 6 (F) (M) (L) D. O'Connor 4-5	M Hills
104 (5) 38/1/92 1992/93 TERRACE 14 (GB) 6 (F) (M) (L) D. O'Connor 5-8	L Deneck
105 (1) 11-20/01 2000/01 GENEVIEVE 14 (GB) 6 (F) (M) (L) D. O'Connor 5-8	J. D. T. Deneck
106 (1) 01/43 1992/93 GARRY (GB) 6 (F) (M) (L) D. O'Connor 5-8	J. P. Deneck
107 (1) 01/43 1992/93 GARRY (GB) 6 (F) (M) (L) D. O'Connor 5-8	J. P. Deneck
108 (1) 00/25/95 1992/93 HAZARD A GUERRA 14 (GB) 6 (F) (M) (L) D. O'Connor 5-8	R. Stynes
109 (1) 04/01/93 1992/93 MATTINSON 22 (GB) 6 (F) (M) (L) D. O'Connor 5-8	R. Stynes
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111 (4) 2/24/92 1992/93 HAZARD A GUERRA 14 (GB) 6 (F) (M) (L) D. O'Connor 5-8	J. Deneck
112 (3) 3/21/92 1992/93 HAZARD A GUERRA 14 (GB) 6 (F) (M) (L) D. O'Connor 5-8	J. Deneck
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174 (2) 04	

CRICKET

McCague's ban body blow to Kent

By IVO TENNANT

TAUNTON (first day of four; Somerset won toss; Somerset have scored 336 for six wickets against Kent)

no-balled, and then a ball which Whitehead referred to as a "chest-high full toss".

Both bowler andumpire declared that this was accidental, but Whitehead said: "I had no choice, even though McCague apologised. He had already received a final warning." So McCague, who will be able to bowl in Somerset's second innings, spent the rest of the day in the outfield, where he dropped Ecclestone, who also made century. It was a straightforward chance.

Ever since Nasser Hussain advocated after the last Test match that county cricket was too chummy, there has been an spate of unpleasant incidents. McCague, with his Irish-Australian background, has never appeared a softie. He has bowled well this season, but this was a daft piece of cricket. Marsh, the Kent captain, had a lengthy mid-pitch discussion with Whitehead, to no avail. If Lord Harris had still been around, McCague would no doubt have been banished to the pavilion.

Quite apart from anything else, it was exceedingly un-intelligent, given that Kent, who were ten points behind the leaders at the start of play, were reduced to four regular bowlers on another sweltering day. Rob Turner, the recipient of the bouncers and the



McCague departs for the outfield after Whitehead, left, the umpire, had ordered his removal from the attack.

SCOREBOARD

SOMERSET: First Innings
H J Turner c Courtney b Salmon 14
P C L Holoway c Ward b Phillips 0
S C Ecclestone not out 103
M J Gatting c Ward b Salmon 23
M T Whitehead c & b Morris 0
M Burns c Wells b Phillips 11
G D Rose c Marsh b Fleming 35
S Hargreaves not out 6
Extras (b 1, to 2, nb 8) 5
Total (6 wkt, 104 overs) 336
A Toss lost. Mustafa Ahmed K J Shoaib not out.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-73, 3-97,
4-93, 5-148, 6-319
BOWLING: McCague 21-0-22-0, Phillips
20-4-13, Salmon 24-5-85-2, Hargreaves
25-6-22, Ward 26-6-78-0, Wells 6-2-
18-0.

KENT: D P Fulton, E T Smith, T R Ward,
A P Wells, G R Courtney, M A Salmon, M V
Fleming, B A Marsh, P A Strong, M J
McCague, B J Phillips
Bonus points: Somerset 3 Kent 2.
Umpires: R A White and A G T Whitehead

beamers — which missed him — batted until shortly before the close, making a career-best 144. The England and Wales Cricket Board said it would not be taking any action.

Whitehead, a former Test umpire, acted in accordance with Law 42, which gives him no leeway. In his opening over, McCague, who became carried away with the life he discovered in this pitch, was warned for bowling two bouncers. His second over was relatively uneventful. His third began with a bouncer, a second bouncer, which was

Hungry Wells makes good use of reprise

By PAT GIBSON

LEICESTER (first day of four; Leicestershire won toss; Leicestershire have scored 307 for seven wickets against Derbyshire)

The result was that some excellent cricket was overshadowed. Turner, who struck 20 fours and batted for all but the closing over, is one of the highest English-qualified cricketers in the first-class averages and must have a chance of going on the A tour this winter. His age 30 in this match, will not help his cause. He showed no histronics over the beamer and, on a pitch that eased in the afternoon, drove with much zest.

Somerset were without Bowler and Harden, the captain and his deputy, and almost lost Ecclestone, their third choice to lead them, as well. He retired with a knee injury when still in single figures, returning with his side in need of someone to stay with Turner. His first championship century was reached in the final over and included 16 fours and a six.

From Maddy, who contributed 33 to an opening stand of 144, and Whitaker, who positively bristled in a

reaction to Hewitt's head-high drop at a custom-made fine leg, with Bonn on 42, they sensed that it would be costly. Before bad light and drizzle ended play 11 overs early, Middlesex, through Kallis, had captured both Weston — who profited from Bonn's composure — and Bonn. This ensures that a good early tail will see off Durhams' tail, whereupon Middlesex can begin the task of establishing a sizeable lead on a pitch that is likely to become more uneven. Without Ramprakash, this will be less than routine.

Bon, though, with a combination of resolute defence and imperious driving, compiled 110 from 229 balls with 14 fours. From the Middlesex

initial spell certainly provided little to trouble Durhams, but the visitors then tightened their line and Lewis was soon snared when Kallis jugged one back in the seventeenth over. Johnson, denied the new ball, was now producing the hostility Middlesex had earlier lacked. When Speight squared up and edged Kallis to Gatting at first slip, Durham were subsiding at 153 for four.

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YORKSHIRE (first day of four; Yorkshire won toss; Yorkshire have scored 285 for six wickets against Middlesex)

DAVID BOON yesterday laid to rest the gloomy statistic that no previous Durham captain had scored a championship hundred and, in doing so, ensured that Durham avoided a customary mid-innings collapse (Alastair Storie writes).

Winning the toss on a cloudless day, he elected to bat on what appeared to be a blanched surface devoid of any real pace. Middlesex's

pitch was a good one, but the visitors then tightened their line and Lewis was soon snared when Kallis jugged one back in the seventeenth over. Johnson, denied the new ball, was now producing the hostility Middlesex had earlier lacked. When Speight squared up and edged Kallis to Gatting at first slip, Durham were subsiding at 153 for four.

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PAUL HUTCHISON is a name remembered vaguely by most cricket-lovers. A surprising selection last season for the Rest against England A, after making a promising debut in Zimbabwe, he then injured his back and was virtually forgotten (Derek Hodgson writes).

The Yorkshire player is

sued a reminder yesterday.

Bowling a lively left-arm over,

he claimed his third five-

wicket haul in successive

matches and, this summer, has 25 wickets at an average of 11.

Sussex, on a greenish pitch

that is taking turn, lost their openers for three runs. Once

Keith Newell had gone, his

younger brother, Mark, who

made an admirable unbeaten

62, was left looking aghast as

the last five wickets went down in 15 balls for seven.

Yorkshire, too, found the

pitch no place to picnic, but

Darren Lehman, who has

been preferred to Michael

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Sussex, on a greenish pitch

Mhill for
organ's
challenge
a bizarre day
tsister, local Minis

CRICKET

Taylor can look back with pride

Michael Henderson pays his tribute to a popular, diplomatic and successful leader

A SERIES that began with one captain under pressure to do the decent thing ends with the other pulling knives out of his back. Michael Atherton is trying to balance the privilege of leading England against the vilification that goes with the job, while Mark Taylor is preparing to take his leave of England for the last time.

Give him a cheerful wave as he departs, for Taylor is a joker who has enjoyed some of the best days of his career against England. He made his first Test hundred at Headingley on the 1989 tour and the century he made at Edgbaston in the first Test of the current series may turn out to be his last at this level.

Five times he has played a full series against England and five times he has been a convincing winner, the last three times as captain. Only one Australian batsman, Bradman, has made more runs in a rubber against England than the 839 Taylor made eight years ago. It is a formidable record.

Of his six hundreds against England, he has made five in this country. The Oval is the only English ground where he has not made a Test century, so he has one final chance to complete an impressive set. Then he will return home, not knowing exactly what the future holds.

"I don't really know what will happen," he said after yesterday's net session. "I'm in a good position at the moment. Things have turned round for me. I have made a few runs and the team has been winning". Just so, it is precisely because the Australian team is so strong, and settled, that the selectors can contemplate demoting Taylor and promoting Steve Waugh.

It seems a good time, therefore, to praise Taylor for the contribution he has made to Australian cricket and to the game in general. He inherited a good side from Allan Border, and has helped it to develop into a very good one. Waugh, if it is to be Waugh, will preside over a team that really

is among the finest Australian teams, and one that can become stronger.

As the leader and slip sniffer supreme, Taylor has played a full part in recent successes, but it would be stretching a point to say his batting commands a place. A man who makes 15 Test hundreds and has an average of 42 cannot be a negligible player. Better to say he has done his bit, splendidly, uncomplainingly, and must now allow younger men to do theirs.

At all times, even when people were calling for his head on a silver platter, Taylor has been diplomatic itself. He realises, as Atherton often appears not to, that captaincy means being a master of disguise. You may think the reporter is a buffoon and regard the camera as an encumbrance, but by talking sensibly to one or smiling into the other, you can address the cricket-lovers beyond, who want their team to be properly represented.

At the start of this tour, Taylor was not even getting a bark in the doghouse. There was that awful day at Bristol when *The Mirror* dispatched some clown to present him with a three-foot wide bat, to protect his wicket. There must have been times when his patience was stretched almost beyond endurance, but he never did anything to cheapen the office of captain, and that is surely his best testimonial.

To be a batting Test captain these days is nothing less than trial by jury and Taylor can stand down from the dock with no blemish on his record, except the usual failures that flesh is heir to.

Australia have drawn only five of the 32 Tests they have played under Taylor: three were rain-affected and the other two were his first couple on the slow pitches of Pakistan. Under him, Australia have aspired to be the best and have proved it by playing attractive cricket without behaving improperly. The measure of their success defines the significance of his.

KIM PRICE followed the South Africa women's first victory over England on Sunday by winning the toss at Lord's yesterday; however, by electing to bat, she may have surrendered the advantage.

The decision sent a confident signal, but the performance did not. The touring side failed to bat out their 50 overs and were dismissed for 134. Conrad Hume, their coach, had spoken of the need to control nerves on the big occasion. For his charges, so new to international cricket, they do not come much bigger than this and Lord's, the home of cricket, looked perfect. It was little wonder, then, that South Africa seemed overawed.

Denise Reid, the left-handed pinch-hitter, fell for only three and Terri Blanche was bowled by Taylor attempting an ugly leg-side slog, betraying early signs of the game. Only Linda Olivier seemed happy in the middle; her 57 came off 83 balls — but her dismissal, run out after an arrowing throw from Leng, was a bitter end to a good start.

It was symptomatic of the South Africa innings. There were three run-outs in all and it could have been more. Had a third umpire been on duty — the Women's Cricket Association vetoed the idea — he would have been much in demand.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA	
L Oliver	run out
D Reid	bowled
J Price	bowled by Taylor
H de Villiers	run out
K Leng	run out
K Price	Dismissed b Smithies
J Olivier	run out
R Stoop	c and b Leng
A Kotze	run out
C Olivier	Dismissed b Reynard
A Olivier	c and b Leng
Extras (b 6, lb 1, w 5, nb 1)	134
Total (45.3 overs)	134
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19, 2-22, 3-75, 4-88, 5-90, 6-92, 7-92, 8-117, 9-133	
5-90: D Reid, 6-92: J Olivier, 7-92: H de Villiers, 8-117: K Leng, 9-133: K Kotze	
15-1: Smithies 10-3-63; Connor 10-2-21; Long 8-2-21; Reynard 7-2-1-21.	
ENGLAND	
C M Edwards	Dismissed
H C Plummer	run out
B A Daniels	run out
J S Metcalfe	not out
J C Smithies	run out
Extras (b 2, lb 4, w 4)	10
Total (3 wickets, 40.3 overs)	10
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-43, 3-102	
BOWLING: Kotze 9-1-37-0; Ebastien 10-2-32-2; Price 8-3-24-0; Davies 10-0-37-0; Stoop 8-1-33-0; Leng 8-1-13-0	
Umpires: V Gibbons and A Roberts.	

If the previous game was a personal nightmare for Karen Smithies, the England captain, she could be forgiven for thinking that this was a dream. She bowled ten overs for the loss of 15 runs, claiming the wickets of Davies, Price and, with a stunning return catch, Burger.

England, although unchanged, were unrecognisable from the team that could not catch on Sunday and, crucially, the bowlers kept a full length. Yet it was not all plain sailing. The crowd was disappointed when Charlotte Edwards missed out. Her only scoring stroke was a cracking four through point, but she was bowled in the second over after an overconfident drive across the line of a ball by Ebastien that swung late.

Barbara Daniels steadied any jangling nerves by scoring a brisk yet composed 53 and Plummer chipped in with 16, before the reliable Metcalfe saw England home with an undefeated 49, with 9.3 overs to spare.

GOLF

Ballesteros keeps the guessing game going

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN DUBLIN

SEVERIANO Ballesteros has

as many moods as a diva. There is the broody Ballesteros, when he appears to carry the cares of the world on his shoulders; the elated Ballesteros, as he was when Europe won the Ryder Cup two years ago. The Spaniard can be aloof and querulous, curt and talkative. When he wants to be, he can be colloquial, not in his native language but in English. Rarely

is there is much to be said for a captain who knows his own mind.

Then he said something that suggests he has the power to see into the future. "If the situation changes," he said, "I have already made up my mind, so I know already what is going to happen. I am the only one. It is a secret and I like to keep the secret until 31 August. I have a very clear picture of the situation and that is it. It was before the US PGA that I decided."

One can surmise that what

Ballesteros means is that if he

has to select two players from Olazábal, Faldo and Parnevik, it will be Parnevik who will be left out. This would be an eleventh successive Ryder Cup for Faldo. If Olazábal gets into the team by qualification, then Ballesteros will select Faldo and Parnevik.

Miguel Angel Jiménez will be Ballesteros's vice-captain. This is something else that Ballesteros has sorted out. Yet that could change if Jiménez, 21st in the Ryder Cup points table at the moment with two tournaments still to count, qualifies for the team.

The United States team is formidable. If the selection of that team is what has brought Ballesteros such peace of mind at a time when everyone expected him to be racking his brains, then hurray for that.



England seize back initiative

BY SARAH POTTER

LORD'S (South Africa won toss; England beat South Africa by seven wickets)

KIM PRICE followed the South Africa women's first victory over England on Sunday by winning the toss at Lord's yesterday; however, by electing to bat, she may have surrendered the advantage.

The decision sent a confident signal, but the performance did not. The touring side failed to bat out their 50 overs and were dismissed for 134. Conrad Hume, their coach, had spoken of the need to control nerves on the big occasion. For his charges, so new to international cricket, they do not come much bigger than this and Lord's, the home of cricket, looked perfect. It was little wonder, then, that South Africa seemed overawed.

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sions at the US PGA Championship last week. No problem, Ballesteros said. Nick Faldo's poor form? I am not worried, Ballesteros said. He gave the impression that he has every eventuality covered.

"I expect some changes in the point list in the next two weeks," Ballesteros said, "but I have already made up my mind. It is not a dilemma, it is very easy." So far, so good. At least Ballesteros will be decisive.

Northampton set sights on Gibbs

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

NORTHAMPTON, having kept Gregor Townsend on their books, are seeking another British Isles player for their back division. They have offered Swansea £300,000 for the services of Scott Gibbs, though the Wales centre has shown no enthusiasm for moving out of the Principality.

The offer will be considered by the Swansea board today.

"We were very upset at the way Northampton went about things originally," Baden Evans, the Welsh club's director of rugby, said after an unofficial approach had been made to Gibbs, "but they have apologised and made an official approach. The team management does not want him to go and at no time has Scott said he wants to go."

Northampton, who have signed Andrew Blyth, the England A centre, from Newcastle, have four 1997 Lions in their back division and one of 1993 vintage, Ian Hunter.

Now that they are assured of the services as director of rugby of Ian McGeechan, his coaching may act as a lure for players such as Gibbs, who have already come under his influence on tour with the Lions.

David Humphreys, the London Irish and Ireland fly half, will miss the exiles' opening Allied Dunbar Premiership first division game against Richmond on Saturday after exacerbating an ankle injury. Sean Burns will play instead, alongside Mark McCall, the Dungannon centre, who makes his debut.

Rob Wainwright, the Scotland captain, has confirmed his move from Watsonians to Dundee HSF, of the second division. He will join another Lions forward, Tom Smith, and Stewart Campbell at Dundee.

HEINEKEN EXPORT
330 ml bottle
40% OFF A CASE
24 FOR £15.12
Equivalent to single bottle price of 63p

THRESHER WINE SHOP

ADVENTURES. GUARANTEED

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This is a good piece of reasoning by ex-international Graham Kirby, playing in the Nottinghamshire Team's Final.

Dealer West. North South game. IMPs.

SAKS
+104
+AKJ54
+KJ74
+32
+J76
+Q762
+102
+A065

Double
2NT
Pass
All Pass

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South.

Last: ten of spades

hearts, but Kirby continued with the king of diamonds and switched to the three of hearts.

Declarer correctly falscared with the six (leaving open the possibility that he had started with Q76 alone) and Kirby won with the jack. What should he play now?

Kirby could see declarer was likely to have at least one jack of clubs along with the jack of spades and the queen of hearts for his advance to Three No-Trumps. So the question was, should he try to cash hearts or should he attack diamonds? He judged well to do the latter, and in addition found the correct play of the jack. Declarer finessed the queen and East encouraged with the six. Now when the clubs didn't divide declarer had to try to set up a trick in

clubs.

For details of The Times Midland Private Banking National Bridge Challenge, call the organisers on 0181-942 9706.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

White resigns

WINNING MOVE

By Philip Howard

FANK
a. A job
b. A coward
c. A noose

GUERISON
a. Cure
b. Gift
c. A garrison

Answers on page 42

Solution on page 42

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Mind Sports Olympiad

In the chess section of the

Mind Sports Olympiad,

Michael Adams, the co-British

champion, leads after six

rounds with 5½ points. On five

points are Julian Hodgson,

Matthew Sadler and Aaron

Summerscale. In the following

game, Luke McShane, 13,

defeats James Plaskett,

Black: Luke McShane

Mind Sports Olympiad

Sicilian Defence

Diagram of final position

Smith and swimming left immersed in no-win situation

Golden girl's tarnished image

Michelle Smith's image is in deep water. She is on the evidence of her glittering collection of Olympic medals, simply the greatest athlete in Irish history and the world's finest all-round swimmer. But the world, it seems, has a hard time making up its mind whether she is a winner or a sinner.

When she took gold for the 400 metres individual medley on the first day of the European championships in Seville this week, there was an unbelievably muted reaction — a token slap of applause as most headed silently for the exits. Smith, for her part, ducked out of the post-race press conference, a gesture that has landed her with a warning from the swimming authorities.

The poor girl, it seems, just cannot win. On the facts, she ought to be hailed as the biggest sports hero her country has produced. On the whispers, she is the golden girl that few want to know.

The facts are on the record. At the Olympic Games in Atlanta last summer, she became the first Irishwoman to win a gold medal for any sport. She then took two more golds and a bronze. She did all this at the astonishing age of 26 — astonishing because, by that age, most female swimmers are at least five years past their due date.

Gold medals are rarer than four-leaf clovers in Irish Olympic history. Over a few days in Georgia, Smith single-handedly added more than 50 per cent to her country's haul of Olympic gold — in 70 years of taking part, Ireland had previously secured only five first places.

If ever a sportswoman seemed marketable, it had to be Smith. Dublin-born, with a winning smile and red hair that would come tumbling out of her swimming cap, she seemed set for a life of fame and fortune, yet she has been virtually shunned by big commercial sponsors.

It all started to turn sour at the Olympic poolside. Her triumphs were challenged by some of the American swimmers, who suggested that her victories would have been impossible without the aid of performance-enhancing drugs. Smith denied such allegations repeatedly, pointing

'Fortune beckoned, but she has been shunned'

In an interview that De Bruin gave to the Dutch newspaper *De Volkskrant* in 1993, he said: "Who says doping is unethical? Who decides what is ethical? Sport is by definition dishonest. Some people are naturally gifted, others have to work very hard. Some people are not going to make it without extra help."

In Holland, steroids, testosterone and human growth hormone, all of which can help an athlete to train harder and build muscle more efficiently, can be bought cheaply and easily.

Smith, who has now taken to using the surname of De Bruin, does credit her husband for her improved performances, but she is adamant that they have nothing to do with drugs.

In 1993, De Bruin radically changed the way that Smith trained. He says that he applied methods used by track and field athletes, particularly increasing her weightlifting work. De Bruin also scheduled more periods of rest into



Smith celebrates a second European championship gold medal in Seville yesterday

her heavy training schedule and experimented with a low-fat diet. So she trains hard and has never failed a drugs test, but the questions refuse to go away.

The problem for Smith, for swimming and for other sports, is one of credibility. All too often these days, whenever gold is won or a record is broken, spectators wonder if they can trust their eyes or their stopwatches. Sadly, Ben Johnson destroyed much more than his own career when he broke the world 100 metres record, powered by drugs. After that, it has been hard to believe any performances seems too good to be true.

The only way forward is to make the procedures for poli-

cating drug-taking so convincing that there can be no doubts about innocence.

Here, too, Smith has had unfortunate run-ins with the authorities. The rules of the international swimming federation, FINA, say that it must know the whereabouts of the top 50 swimmers in each event so that they can be given random tests.

Masking agents are now so good that anyone who passes them will be known to be blameless will Smith's achievements be hailed as those of true golden girl. Until then, however fast she swims, however many gold medals she takes away, she and her sport can never win.

JOHN BRYANT

Britain strikes relay gold in record time

FROM CRAIG LORD
IN SEVILLE

AS performances go, those by the Great Britain men's 4 x 200 metres freestyle relay team and Michelle Smith at the European swimming championships here yesterday could scarcely have made a greater impact.

Smith, swimming under her

married name of De Bruin, caused jaws to drop with victory in the 200 metres freestyle in 1min 59.93sec, her first international outing over the distance, while the British relay team gave the nation its only title in the event since it was first swum in 1926.

The quartet of James Salter,

Paul Palmer, Andrew Clayton

and Gavin Meadows won in a

British record time of 7min 17.56sec, finishing 0.28sec ahead of Holland and 1.36sec ahead of Germany. It marked a further climb up the world rankings for a team that finished third at the world short-course championships in 1995.

None of the women in the 200 metres freestyle could get the measure of Smith, who received a warning letter yesterday for failing to attend a press conference, for which the penalty can be disqualification. Three years ago, Smith would not have made the Ireland team in freestyle at a time when the country could not find a woman good enough to make an international B final, let alone an A final. However, since Erik de Bruin, her husband, took up coaching in 1993, Smith

has progressed beyond all recognition.

De Bruin, the former discus thrower, whose four-year suspension for a positive drugs test expired this month and who apologised last weekend to the European Swimming League for forgoing his accreditation at the 1995 championships, said that he thought Smith could make further progress at 200 metres, but that the scorching conditions had held her back. It was a sobering assessment from a coach whose swimmer would not have been among the top 200 in the world over 200 metres freestyle four years ago.

Smith had made the final by just 0.03sec, recording 2min 2.15sec — the same as Karen Pickering, of Britain — and had to race in lane one. It

made little difference. After finishing sixth in 2min 1.02sec, Pickering said of Smith: "What can you do? You have to get in and race her. There's speculation about plenty of people. We just don't know if we're racing on a level playing field."

Nonetheless, a new generation is on the march. In the 400 metres medley on the first day here, Smith won by a close margin from a 15-year-old and yesterday the Russian and Romanian who followed her home were aged 16 and 14. Another 16-year-old, Agnes Kovacs, set a European record of 2min 24.90sec, the third-fastest ever and just 0.4sec outside the world record, in the 200 metres breaststroke.

Kovacs, like the great Kristina Egerszegi before her, is coached by László Kiss in Budapest. Yesterday, employing the breaststroke technique named after her country — a high head and hand recovery helping to plunge the swimmer into a long glide, as if every stroke were almost a dive — Kovacs was unassassable.

Racing in the elimination lane was Jamie King, who, in the morning heats, became the first British woman to dip below 2min 30sec with a national record of 2min 29.91sec. She was unable to match that later, but finished a worthy fifth, with Linda Hindmarsh, Britain's second finalist, eighth in 2min 31.68sec.



The British quartet claims victory in Seville yesterday

1. b6! Rad4 (1... axb5 2. Nxb5! Kxb5 3. Nc7+ mates); 2. Qxd4! Rad4; 3. b6! checkmate.

WORD-WATCHING
Answers from page 41
FANK
(c) A coil of rope; a noose. From *fang* a rope leading from the peak of the gaff of a fore-and-aft sail to the rail on each side (used for steady the gaff).
GUERISON
(a) Cure, healing. From the Old French *guerison*, *guerir* to cure. French *guérir*. You will be able to converse upon a subject which it will be necessary for you to *guérison* not to keep to yourself.
FORGAR
(c) To lose, to destroy or corrupt. From the Old English *yearwian* to make ready. "This fellowship han forgard her grace."
GALIPOT
(b) The turpentine or resin which exudes from, and hardens upon, the stem of certain pines. From the French, of unknown origin, but perhaps from the Old French *garipot*, a species of pine-tree.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. b6! Rad4 (1... axb5 2. Nxb5! Kxb5 3. Nc7+ mates); 2. Qxd4! Rad4; 3. b6! checkmate.

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Is it a documentary, or is it a blatant plug?

At last, the waiting's over. Just a few more paragraphs to go before you finally can't wait the much-awarded review of *Oasis: Right Here, Right Now* (BBC2). It is published here this morning to coincide with today's release of Oasis's third album, *Be Here Now*, which has been so spectacularly orchestrated (the songs, not the release! Shame on you!).

Can't bear to wait? Okay, here's a little appetite-whetting taster: "Painted far too blackly".

Wow! Yes, those are just a few of the "catchy, hummable words, heavy with knowing 1960s references, that will be in the review, which I repeat - went on sale for the very first time today. The tabloids failed to beg or steal their way into a sneak preview. We even said no to the Virgin Megastore and to HMV - let alone *Radio Times* - which all pleaded to be allowed to feature snippets of the review on their in-store radio

stations or in their pages, but we didn't want to dilute the impact.

We haven't typed it in properly yet," we explained, although many people misheard that as: "We haven't typed it up properly yet."

So here goes... OK, it's coming right now. Ready? Here it comes...

Well, I mean what more can you say about a bunch of guys who have stuck two fingers up to the stalling world of bourgeois conformity, an attitude underlined in the very opening scene of the film when they climb into that age-old symbol of youthful rebellion: their private jet. Oasis has every reason to be pleased with what Mike Connolly, the director, and Mark Cooper, the executive producer, showed us last night. Well, showed you last night. Reviewers were not allowed videotapes, but were summoned instead to a special screening at a West End cinema last week, so that we could better

appreciate the quality of the film and sound (Why?). The millions who watched it at home won't have had this advantage.

The documentary is lovingly made. Connolly's direction frames Liam and Noel Gallagher in poses that have the mood of studio portraits about them. If it all verges on the flattering, this is because Connolly was striving for a handsome film, not because he was in Oasis's pocket. The BBC was given editorial freedom - though Cooper and Connolly won't mind if Oasis are pleased enough with the result to turn to the same team of filmmakers when the band's fourth album is heading for the shops.

The general message? That the bad boys of rock 'n' roll have been painted far too blackly by Britain's tabloids. Instead of the boorish Liam who is so inarticulate that he communicates in hand signals, we

REVIEW

Joe Joseph

are shown a Liam who is an artist trying to get on with his life and his music. Cooper and Connolly wanted to round out the picture. It probably needed rounding. But have they tipped back the scale too far? We see a volley of tabloid headlines about the band's ugly behaviour, unaccompanied by any judgmental commentary. But when such shots are interleaved with sedate, unprovocative inter-

views with Liam and Noel, the impression you are left with is that those boorish tabloids have got the stories all wrong. Have they?

Nor is the behind-the-scenes picture so full that we get to see either of the famous Mrs Gallaghers. OK, the documentary makers wanted to concentrate on the music. But they filmed only three songs. Not many - though enough to prove that Liam has a great voice for rock 'n' roll. We saw just how great when he deserted Oasis when they appeared on MTV: Noel's solo performance at the microphone exposed how samey many of Noel's songs sound without Liam's vocal punch. And for such a rounded picture, this film lacks glimpses of the plonker we know Liam can be: being an outrageous plonker is what makes him a mesmerising star.

Noel comes across as talented and ambitious, though his conversation lacks the fluent, tart one-

liners of his hero, John Lennon. He also has a lion-tamer's touch when it comes to whip-cracking his kid brother into his place.

Like sunlight through a cracked venetian blind, bits of Liam we know sneak through occasionally: "I'm 24 years of age and I'm the most important rock 'n' roll band in the world... how could I not have fun? I've got a load of money... what am I going to do, sit at home and clip my toenails? You've got to go out and get it."

Which is about all that Liam and Gill Neville are likely to have in common. The search for fun can take queer turns. Neville, the heart-warming subject of *The Day That Changed My Life* (BBC2), was a model at 18. At 32 she was running her own agency. She had ticked off most of life's checklist of glamorous goals. Then, in 1989, she fell in love with an Australian

vet. A few months later she was married and living on his 240-acre beef farm in Dubbo, New South Wales, 250 miles from Sydney.

Her family and friends couldn't believe that Gill could be happier shoving her fist up a cow than schmoozing in the big city. But, as Liam would say, she's mad for it: "I've only been back home once since we got married. There were grey skies, I caught a cold and got shingles. It was a great relief to get back to Australia."

There was another object lesson on *TW Time Machine* (BBC1). Having trawled *Tomorrow's World's* archives, Maggie Philbin asked us: "What do a squash-ball warmer, a centrally heated ski pole and a fishing rod that glows in the dark have in common? Well, we backed them all as winners." How tricky it is to predict what will last and what won't, however good it sounds at the time. Somebody warn Liam.

BBC1

6.00am *Business Breakfast* (13179)

7.00 *BBC Breakfast News* (1) (50268)

9.00 *Breakfast News Extra* (1) (5020044)

9.20 *Ready, Steady, Cook* (1) (501324)

9.50 *Earlier* Are children becoming more aggressive? (1) (507421)

10.20 *Put It to the Test* (5047492)

10.45 *News: Regional News* (1) and weather (744695)

10.50 *Cricket: Sixth Test - England v Australia* Continues on BBC2 (5645584)

12.35pm *Neighbours* (1) (1856711)

1.00 *News* (1) and weather (563353)

1.30 *Regional News* (1) (88720228)

1.40 *Cricket: Sixth Test - England v Australia* Ball-by-ball coverage of the second session. Continues on BBC2 (56856518)

4.00 *Poppy* (2242515) 1.00 *Dirndlables* (1) (1) (320727) 4.35 *Cartoon Critters* (1) (5890695) 5.00 *Newround* (1) (2434957)

5.10 *Byke Grove* (1) (378570)

5.35 *Neighbours* (1) (200063)

6.00 *News* (1) and weather (604)

6.30 *Regional News Magazine* (1) (624)

7.00 *Watchdog: Value for Money* *Vanessa* Felt searches for fashionable maternity wear and demonstrates how to create a Victorian bathroom (F) (6368)

7.30 *EastEnders* Events sum up the year. *Tiffy* hears Phil and Kathy are to accompany them on their break to Paris (F) (6368)

8.00 *X-Cars* *Carers* Follow Manchester's radical *Vehicle Crime* Unit as they attempt to cut down on the city's 85,000 annual automobile offences (1) (223434)

8.30 *Plumbers* *Bob* tangles himself as a writer. *Tiffy* sends some of his old school essays to a publisher, but for her one must be written in order to have them printed as a collection (F) (719417)

9.00 *News: Regional News* (1) and weather (1781)

9.30 *999 International* Heroic stories introduced by Michael Buerk and Juliette Morris, including a diver kept alive by his workmates after being sucked into a sinking ship, a group of travel agents whose plane crash-landed, and a man trapped under the ice of a frozen lake (1) (73805)

10.25 *Making: Bebels, Tamys and Ray's Story* The stars of the first series return to update viewers on their quest for an IV baby, illustrating the pressure and strains of the treatment and its effect on their relationship (1) (390247)

10.55 *BBC Proms 1997* Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet, Overture and Rite of Spring; Korstov's Scherazade performed by Russia's Kirov Orchestra, conducted by Valery Gergiev (2049518)

12.15am *Advance to the Rear* (1964, b/w) with Glenn Ford, Melvyn Douglas and Joan Blondell. A gang of militia are moved from the fighting during the American Civil War and get involved in various adventures, including saving a gold shipment and capturing a rebel spy. Directed by George Marshall (178957)

1.45 *Weather* (543959)

VideoPlus+ and the **Video PlusCode**. The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your recorder using VideoPlus+ or handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+, Pluscode (TM), Videoplus and Videoprogrammer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

6.00am *Open University: Plant Growth Regulators* (7996191) 6.25 *The Regulation of Flowering* (2843008) 6.50 *Patterns in Green* (902150)

7.15 See *Hour Broadcast News* (1) and signing (8842131)

7.30 *Teletubbies* (1) (424353) 7.55 *Brum* (1) (4131841) 8.10 *Recoons* (1) (1347519) 8.35 *Get Your Own Back* (1) (5046524)

9.05 *Spiderman* (1) (7674150) 9.35 *Glitter Page* (1) (606179) 10.05 *Smurfs Adventures* (1) (5852957) 10.35 *Deke Dale* (1) (4222562) 10.45 *Teletubbies* (1) (161044)

11.15 *Afternoon Colour* (168957)

11.45 *Witney Through the Seasons* (7982723)

12.35pm *Cricket: Sixth Test* The final half-hour begins live (1584533)

1.00 *Today's Gourmet* (1) (5195) 1.30 *Tricks of the Trade* (1) (8871070) 1.40 *Blockbusters* (5686502) 2.05 *Natural World: Classics* (1) (696624) 3.00 *News* (1) (224105) 3.05 *Modern Times* (1) (4386524) 3.35 *New Times* (1) (6769773)

4.00 *Cricket: Sixth Test England v Australia* Ball by ball coverage until the close of play (3063)

5.00 *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* A Cardassian outpost is destroyed by Klingons (1) (2265939)

7.10 *The Curse of the Star: The International success of the Land Rover* (1) (694334)

7.30 *Leviathan* New series. Mark Urban presents reflections on familiar events in history. Beginning with Michael Portillo, recounting Benjamin Disraeli's notorious rise to power, the conflict between India and Pakistan comes under scrutiny, and day trippers contrast the Southend of today with that of a pre-war Bank Holiday (150)

8.00 *Wild Harvest* with Nick Nairn Traditional Borders cuisine (1) (6369) WALES: *Anchors Away*

8.30 *Wildlife Showcase* Cameraman journey into the Alps to shoot footage of marmots (172711)

8.30 *Third Rock from the Sun* Harry is mistaken for an environmental activist (1) (447344)

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Islanders turn anger on Governor

Residents want £10,000 each in compensation

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN OLIVESTON, MONTSERRAT

AN ANGRY crowd of more than a hundred people marched on the offices of Frank Savage, the British Governor on volcano-ravaged Montserrat, demanding to know details of an evacuation plan drawn up by London and the local government.

As a menacing grey-black cloud of volcanic ash rose from the Soufrière Hills about five miles away, residents said that they were deeply dissatisfied with the actions of both British and Montserratian officials.

"Can we have a conversation with the Governor? Can we see his face? We are tired of being pushed around," said Julian Romeo, a local businessman who addressed the crowd with a loudspeaker.

"We have had enough. We want respect. We need to hear the truth," he added.

A tattered Union Jack hung limply from a flagpole outside Mr Savage's offices.

Some protesters carried cardboard banners asking for "Honesty," "No lies" and "Compensation". Nadine Tuitt, a local hairdresser, wore a T-shirt with the words "They think we're mushrooms. They keep us in the dark..."

The rumblings of discontent around the island now rival the belching of the volcano. More than half of the 11,500 population have already fled the island, and many of the remaining 4,000 residents are crammed into makeshift shelters with poor sanitary conditions.



by withstanding intermittent explosions from the volcano, which has so far claimed an estimated 19 lives and destroyed hundreds of homes and businesses in the south of the island, their patience is running out. "We need answers now," said Mr Romeo.

"We want to know what is our package now, and what is our compensation," said Rossind Meade, another protester.

Chanting "We want the Governor now, outside," leaders of the Montserrat Citizens' Association declined an invitation to meet Mr Savage inside

his offices. A few minutes later Mr Savage emerged, accompanied by Frank Hooper, the island's British police chief, to discuss their grievances.

Mr Savage attempted to calm the crowd, thanking them for coming to see him. Since the volcano first became active a little over two years ago, he said, "we have all been through this together".

"We are working around the clock," he added, saying that he hoped to have a final answer from London "as soon as possible".

The Governor suggested that the delay was due to increased volcanic activity in the past two weeks which had produced "a new situation that is being addressed very quickly".

Bertrand Osborne, Montserrat's Chief Minister, expressed his own frustration in a radio address on Tuesday evening, saying he was "very disappointed" by London's failure to respond faster to proposals for financial assistance to the potential evacuees.

Mr Osborne revealed that his government had asked London for 40,000 Eastern Caribbean dollars (£10,000) in financial aid for every head of household and 70,000 EC dollars for a married couple.

Under that proposal a family of four would be entitled to £10,000 EC dollars. He also said his government has requested permission to abolish a local income tax for two years.

Leading article, page 17



A team from HMS Liverpool goes ashore at Montserrat. The destroyer is anchored offshore in readiness for an evacuation of the island

Britain awaits new wave of refugees

BY ADRIAN LEE
AND GLEN OWEN

BRITAIN was yesterday preparing for an influx of refugees from Montserrat. The Government said about 4,000 residents of the colony would be offered a haven in Britain, where normal work permit requirements will be waived and they will qualify for income and housing benefit.

The evacuation will be funded from £415 million allocated by the Government to the island for relief projects.

Sources on Montserrat said money would be distributed among islanders to cover their subsistence costs. It was proposed that every head of household would get £2,403, each spouse would receive £1,803, with £1,203 for every child. Details of the package had not been agreed last night.

It was expected that the number of islanders accepting the offer would run into hundreds, but many would choose to stay in the Caribbean, hoping to return eventually to their homes.

They are likely to be offered free passage to Britain, where they will join 1,400 compatriots who fled Montserrat earlier.

"It is too early to say how many of those remaining will choose to come to Britain but the offer is open to all," the spokesman added. "There is no ceiling." It is thought that many will ignore advice to evacuate.

Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, praised the islanders for remaining "remarkably stoical and calm".

The Soufrière Hills volcano began throwing ash and rock into the air in July 1995, ending 400 years of dormancy. Fresh eruptions this June left at least 19 people dead and earlier this month virtually destroyed Plymouth, the capital.

The remaining population live in the northern third of the island, but emergency living accommodation has been condemned as inadequate, while raw sewage has been dumped in the sea and health care is scanty.

Giuliani cracks down on police 'brutality'

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK'S Mayor's civil rights committee — dubbed a "brutality task force" — yesterday to look into the case of a Haitian immigrant who says he was tortured last week in the locked lavatory of a Brooklyn police precinct.

The man, Abner Louima, has sued the city for \$55 million (£35 million) in compensation for the physical injury, emotional distress and humiliation to his family caused by the alleged brutality, said to have included his being indecently assaulted repeatedly with the wooden handle of a lavatory plunger. Doctors have confirmed that his injuries, which include a ruptured intestine, are consistent with the acts he describes.

The mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, whose political edifice has been built largely on a foundation of no-nonsense policing, wasted no time in taking action against the officers involved, named as Justin Volpe and Charles Schwarz.

Mr Giuliani, the toughest

most pro-police mayor in New

York's history, did not mince words in his condemnation of the officers, describing the acts alleged as "criminal, barbaric and unworthy of any police officer anywhere". There was no trace of leniency towards a force known in the city as "Giuliani's finest". He made plain that he expected other officers to co-operate in the investigation, and that he would not tolerate a "blue wall of silence".

Mr Giuliani faces re-election in November and is clearly intent on preventing his opponents from beating him with a civil liberties stick. However, a pungent irony will not have been lost on him: as Mr Louima was allegedly being given the "third degree" in New York, members of the city's police were in Port-au-Prince training the Haitian force in modern, humane policing methods.

The 28-strong committee includes people from the whole gamut of political philosophy.



A scene showing inmates at an Oklahoma prison being forced to lie on the floor

Jail abuse caught on video

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

AN INMATE of a private Texas jail, who was bitten by a dog, shocked with a stun gun and kicked in the crotch by a guard, has found himself on national television thanks to a videotape of his ordeal.

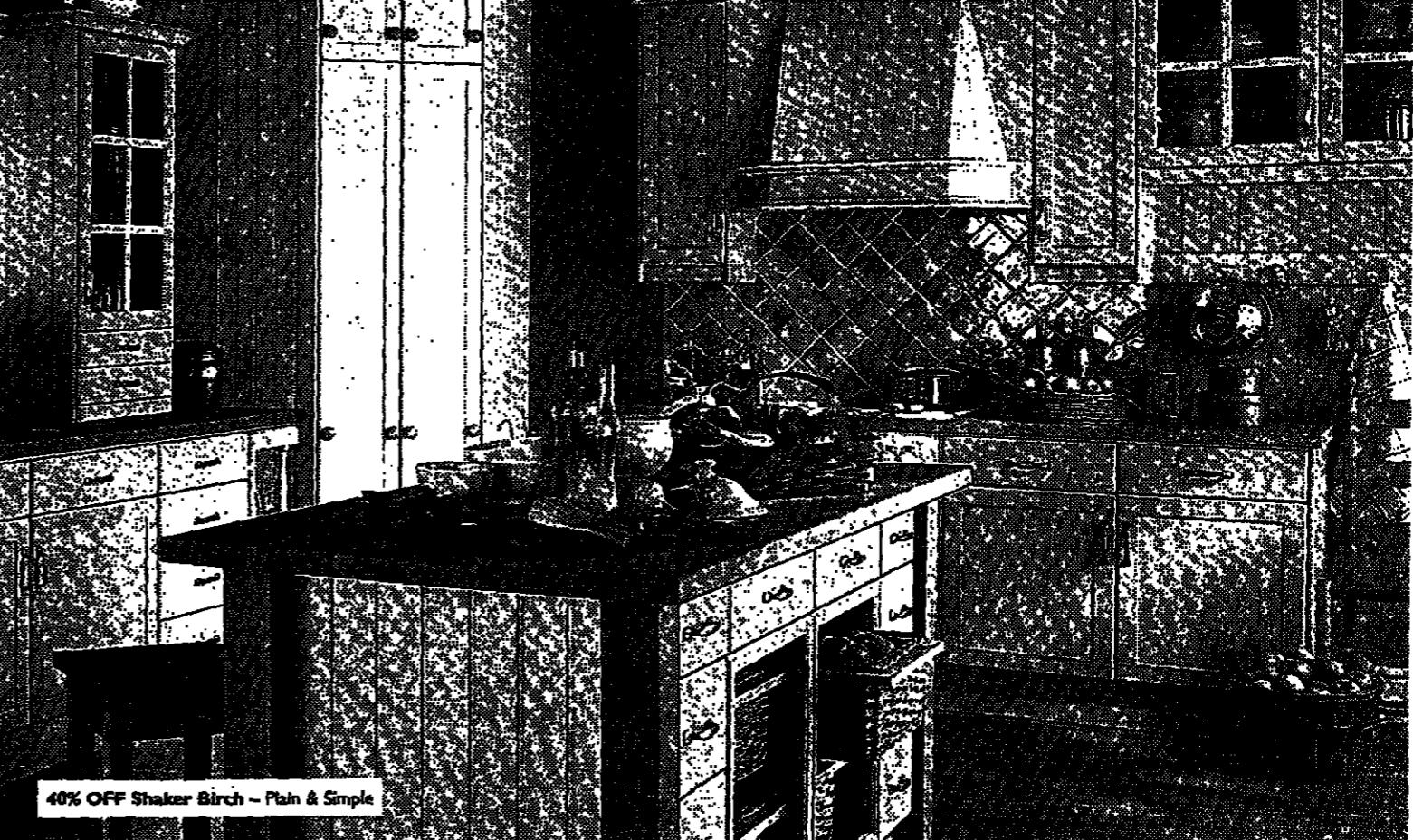
Made "for training purposes", the videotape is now the central piece of evidence in an FBI civil rights investigation that has reignited a fierce debate on whether private companies should be allowed to run state prisons.

The video shows the black inmate, who has not been named, screaming in pain as guards allow an astorian to bite him in the leg. He is seen being kicked at least once between the legs. The tape also shows at least one other inmate being attacked by the dog and given electric shocks with a stun gun as he is dragged across the prison floor with a broken ankle.

Prison officials visible on the tape include state employees of the Brazoria County

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Dr Thomas Stuttaford on paranoid personality disorder; the battle against malaria; the centenary of the aspirin; how heat affects drugs

Delusions that turn life into a nightmare

Nicola Pagett, the actress, first became known to a wide public when she starred in the TV series *Upstairs, Downstairs*. Despite her continuing success, she realises, in retrospect that for many years she has had a manic depressive nature; more recently this has reached a stage where urgent medical attention became essential. Ms Pagett has written about her experiences, which included being sectioned (compulsory admission to a psychiatric unit) and since then has been hospitalised on two other occasions. But since Ms Pagett started taking lithium she has remained well, and has not needed hospital treatment again.

Mania and depression can produce many bizarre symptoms which in Ms Pagett's case included paranoid delusions. She was convinced that her husband, Graham, was poisoning her and was also committing incest with their daughter. No amount of reasoned argument, even evidence, was able to convince her that nothing untoward was taking place in her own home. Ms Pagett even believed that her husband was not only poisoning the water in the jug beside her bed, but had introduced poison into the tap of the mains supply.

Paranoia can be a symptom of the effective disorders, commonly described as depression or mania, in which the patient's mood is altered. These patients are frequently unreasonably depressed or absurdly over-

elated. Paranoia is also a frequent symptom in the schizophrenic disorders. Press accounts have made it very obvious that the late Gordon McMaster, the Scottish Labour MP who recently committed suicide, was severely depressed, and that in his case one of its manifestations had been paranoia.

Paranoia is perhaps more difficult to diagnose when it occurs in isolation as part of a personality disorder, and when there is no evidence of other major psychiatric disease in the patient.

Before someone can be said to have a paranoid personality disorder they must show at least four of its characteristic seven features.

The hallmarks of the paranoid personality disorder are:

a) They must suspect, without sufficient basis, that others are exploiting or deceiving them.

b) The patient must be preoccupied about the loyalty and trustworthiness of friends and associates.

c) They must be reluctant to confide in others because they fear that any confidences they share may later be used maliciously against them.

d) The patients are prone to discover hidden, demeaning remarks or threats in perfectly benign comments or everyday events.

e) These patients bear grudges and do not easily forgive insults or slights.

f) The patient constantly perceives attacks on his or her character or reputation, and overreacts quickly

and angrily to them.

g) People with a paranoid personality disorder are often highly suspicious about the fidelity of any sexual partner.

An appraisal of colleagues in any large organisation or friends in the community or even a glance at the gossip bits in a newspaper will immediately reveal candidates for inclusion into the list of sufferers from this disorder. People with paranoid personalities tend to be

worse when they are stressed or ill, and at these times they become even more quarrelsome and suspicious. Textbooks advise doctors that they should not expect to be trusted or liked by patients with this temperament and experience has apparently shown that they respond better to medical advice if the physician remains slightly aloof.

Patients rarely visit a doctor because they are seeking help with this personality disorder, as few acknowledge that there is anything very much the matter with their character. If the patient's friends and family are not aware of the personality disorder they may easily be misled into supposing that mutual colleagues and acquaintances are untrustworthy and disloyal, and that the world is every bit as inhospitable as it has been represented.

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Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn denounces double standards in international morality — from Britain's bombing of Dresden to the tragedy in Yugoslavia

In the Computer Age we still live by the law of the Stone Age: the man with the bigger club is right. But we pretend this isn't so. We don't notice or even suspect it — why, surely our morality progresses together with our civilisation. Professional politicians, meanwhile, have deftly covered certain vices with a civilised veneer. In the 20th century we have enriched ourselves with innovations in the field of hypocrisy. We find ever more ingenious ways to apply double (triple? quadruple?) standards.

The bloody Yugoslav tragedy has unfolded before our eyes (and is it over yet?). To be sure, blame for it lies with the Communist coterie of Josip Broz Tito, which imposed an arbitrary pattern of internal borders upon the country, trampling on ethnic common sense, and even relocating ethnic masses by force. Yet blame lies also with the venerable community of Western leaders, who — with an angelic naïveté — took those false borders seriously, and then hastened at a moment's notice, in a day or two, to recognise the independence of several breakaway republics whose political formation they apparently found to be advantageous. It was these leaders, then, who nudged Yugoslavia toward many gruelling years of civil war, and their position, declared as *neutral*, was by no means such.

Yugoslavia, with its seven estranged peoples, was told to fall

apart as soon as possible. But Bosnia, with its three estranged peoples and vivid memories of Hitlerite Croatians slaughtering up to a million Serbs, had to remain united at all costs — the particular insistence of the United States Government. Who can explain the disparity of such an approach?

Another example: the Trans-Dniestr Republic and Abkhazia were deemed illegitimate simply because they were "self-proclaimed". But which of the CIS countries was not "self-proclaimed"? Kazakhstan? Ukraine? They were immediately and unconditionally recognised as legitimate, even democratic (and the "Ukrainian Popular Self-Defence" Brownshirts continue to march about like torches and all). Did not the United States also "self-proclaim" their independence? Meanwhile, the Kurds are not allowed even to self-proclaim. When they are not being squashed by Iraq, with the tacit consent of the United States, then they are being smashed by NATO's Turkey even on non-Turkish territory, while the whole civilised world looks on with utter indifference. Are the Kurds a "superstitious nation" on this earth?

Or take the Crimea and the port city of Sevastopol. Any sober mind

on either side would at least agree that the Crimean question is very complex, whereas Ukraine's claim to Sevastopol has no legal base. Yet the US State Department, choosing not to trouble itself with the history of the matter, has continued to assert authoritatively, for six years running, that both the Crimea and Sevastopol are unequivocally the property of Ukraine, end of discussion. Would it presume to speak so categorically on say, the future of Northern Ireland?

Still another accomplishment of political hypocrisy is apparent in the way in which we conduct "war crimes tribunals". Wars, for thousands of years, have always been aggravated on both sides by crimes and injustices. In hopes that a just reason might prevail, in order to make sense of war and to punish evil passions and evil deeds, Russia proposed The Hague Convention of 1899.

Yet no sooner did the first war crimes trial take place — the Nazis at Nuremberg — than we saw, elevated high upon the judges' bench, the unblemished administrators of a justice system that during those same years handed over to torture, execution and untimely death tens of millions of

innocent lives in its own country. And if we continue to differentiate between the always inevitable deaths of soldiers at war and the mass killings of undoubtedly peaceful citizens, then by what name shall we call those who, in a matter of minutes, burn to death 140,000 civilians at Hiroshima alone — justifying the act with the astounding words: "to save the lives of our soldiers"? That President and his entourage were never subjected to trial, and they are remembered as worthy victors. And how shall we name those who, with victory fully in hand, dispatched a two-day wave of fighter bombers to reduce to ashes beautiful Dresden, a civilian city teeming with refugees? The death toll was not far below Hiroshima, and two orders of magnitude greater than at Coventry. The Coventry bombing, however, was condemned in trial, while the Air Marshal who directed the bombing of Dresden was not only spared the brand of "war criminal", but towers over the British capital in a monument, as a national hero.

In an age marked by such a flourishing of jurisprudence, we ought to see clearly that a well-considered international law is a law which justly punishes crimi-

nals irrespective — irrespective — of their side's victory or defeat. No such law has yet been created; found a firm footing, or been universally recognised. It follows, then, that The Hague tribunal still lacks sufficient legal authority with respect to its accused and might on occasion lack impartiality. If so, its verdicts would constitute reprisal, not justice. For all the numerous corpses of civilians uncovered in Bosnia, from all the warring parties, no suspects seem to have been found from the safeguarded Muslim side. Finally we might mention this remarkable tactic: The Hague tribunal now hands down indictments in secret, not announcing them publicly. Somewhere, the accused is summoned on a civil matter, and immediately captured — a method beyond even the Inquisition, more worthy of barons circa 3,000 BC.

Perusing the world map, we find many examples of today's hypocritical double standard. Here is but one more. In the Euro-American can expand, all sorts of integration and partnership are cultivated and nurtured, stretching over lands on the periphery of this space, like Ukraine, willing, even to incorporate faraway Central Asia. At the same time, all sorts of political

for the human cost: witness, finally, their blind inability to find a reasonable and just solution to the controversy over the Kuril Islands. They see themselves at the helm of the ship of Russian history, but they are not. They do not direct the course of events.

As for those who do, their plans to establish a "final worldwide security" are ephemeral as well. Given human nature we ought never to attain such security. It would be futile, at the very least, to march towards this goal armed with hypocrisy and scheming short-term calculations, as practised by a revolving door of officials and by the powerful financial circles that back them. Nor can security be bought with any new technical "superintervention" — for no secret lasts. Only if the creative and active forces of mankind dedicate themselves to finding gradual and effective restraints against the evil facets of human nature to an elevation of our moral consciousness — only then will a faint, distant hope exist. To embark upon this path, and to walk it, requires a patient, pure heart and the wisdom and willingness to place constraints on one's own side, to limit oneself even before limiting others. But today that path only elicits an ironic chuckle, if not open ridicule.

If so, don't bother calling for "world security".

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Mother of all mothers

Daniel Johnson on the Virgin, the Pope and the petition

On long car journeys my family sometimes listens to a tape of Pope John Paul II reciting the Rosary in Latin. Central to this long sequence of prayers is the Hail Mary. We often joke that this papal litany is an infallible method of getting fractious children in the back seat to doze off. *Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum...* But the incantatory beauty of these syllables — uttered countless times since the 11th century and now reiterated in a gravelly Polish *basso profundo* — speak to the child in each and every one of us. We all have had mothers, and Mary is the mother of all mothers.

It is reported that some four million Roman Catholics, including Mother Teresa, are petitioning the Pope to sanction the elevation of the Blessed Virgin to "Co-Redemptrix" with her Son. I cannot see a need further to exalt the status of Our Lady, whom not only Roman Catholics but many other Christians already venerate as "Mother of God". But I am not shocked by Marian piety — provided that nobody misunderstands "co-redemer" to mean that the Holy Trinity was really a quartet. That would be heresy.

Some Protestants have always accused Catholics of Mariolatry. This is to confuse worship with intercession. Worse are the Catholics guilty of this when they should know better. When a Filipino priest told our congregation that Mary could deliver anything we prayed for, he risked just such confusion. But the petitioners' demand that Mary be recognised as the "Mediatrix of All Graces and Advocate of the People of God" does not contradict Catholic doctrine.

Precisely because she is not divine but human, Mary seems more approachable than Christ Himself. If Our Lord brings salvation to mankind, it is Our Lady who comforts us in our troubles. This warm, familiar quality appeals especially to our inhospitable modern world. The great Marian shrines — Walsingham, Guadalupe, Fatima, Lourdes, and now Medjugorje — have replaced

those of other saints as the principal places of pilgrimage. The two doctrines that define modern Mariology — the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption — are ancient traditions but were declared articles of faith only in the past 150 years. They are of far greater significance than the question of co-redemption, which would be merely a refinement of doctrine.

Papal infallibility does not give John Paul II a free hand to alter the established teachings of his predecessors and the ecumenical councils. On the contrary: he is bound not to anticipate the evolving consensus of the Church. In Vatican circles most doubt that he is preparing a new Millennial Marian dogma.

Yet the Pope does see Mary as fundamental to the survival of the Church in a secular age, hostile to the family and dominated by extremes of materialism and feminism. His devotion to Our Lady is well-known, though little understood in Protestant Britain.

One can interpret Wojtyla's devotion psychologically. He lost his mother very young, his father, a professional soldier, was deeply pious. Polish sermons were devoted to the Virgin, and the Black Madonna of Czestochowa has long been a patriotic as well as a religious symbol. As a Polish intellectual, Wojtyla was lucky to survive the Nazi occupation, working in a labour camp while secretly training to be a priest. Scarcely less grim was the Communist era. It is any wonder that the Church became his family and Mary his mother?

But one cannot reduce religion to psychology. The Madonna is the Christian image of what Goethe meant by "the eternal feminine". Amid so much *odium theologicum*, let us not forget Mary herself: that extraordinary Jewish maiden, who responded to the Annunciation with sublime words of humility: "My soul doth magnify the Lord; and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour." She at least knew her place in the divine order.

Europe's President in waiting

Britain has a prime candidate for the EU's unlikeliest appointment

Jack Lang is no longer the figure he once was in French politics. There was a time when, as Minister for Culture under Mitterrand, he was the cover picture on news magazines, typifying Socialist triumphalism in the arts. Now he has been left out of Lionel Jospin's administration, probably wisely, and resents it. He has found a perch as president of the foreign affairs committee of the French Assembly, normally a position of more influence than power. Nevertheless, he still has the aura which politicians who were once big figures sometimes retain; no one is quite sure that the volcano is entirely extinct.

On Monday the volcano emitted a suspicious cloud of sulphur. Jack Lang disturbed the quiet of August in Paris by publishing a "point of view" article in *Le Monde*. It was headed: "Je ne voterai pas le traité d'Amsterdam." Admittedly this bold

statement was almost immediately qualified: he will not vote for the Treaty of Amsterdam in its present form.

Like all experienced politicians, he leaves himself an exit. He does, however, claim to have allies, at least in other parliaments of the European Union.

Lang finds the Treaty of Amsterdam unacceptable because it does not go far enough. He accuses the treaty of abandoning the European ambition. "In contrast to an America which is vigorous, creative and conquering, Europe offers a spectacle of inertia." He fears the very thing which many British Eurosceptics hope — that Amsterdam will lead to "the building of Europe and it has created mistrust. It sounds very well to talk about negotiating a European constitution "far from the cameras", because television is a suspect medium, but it means that the negotiations will also be far from the people. A convention where "economic and social organisations" play a significant role sounds rather like Mussolini's Council.

Eurosceptics will get little comfort from the article as a whole. Although Lang holds this person would create "the basis of a new construction". He then wants, as a second stage, a European constitutional convention, "composed of the delegates of the people, of the states, and of economic and social organisations". These proposals are far from being an open democratic approach to a new European constitution. "M Europe", will, it seems, be chosen by a mysterious process and operate by mysterious means. There has already been too much secrecy about the building of Europe and it has created mistrust. It sounds very well to talk about negotiating a European constitution "far from the cameras", because television is a suspect medium, but it means that the negotiations will also be far from the people. A convention where "economic and social organisations" play a significant role sounds rather like Mussolini's Council.

This article shows the gap that exists between British and French opinion. We do, of course, have our own Eurosceptics who want a United States of Europe, though only a minority of them admit it.

Many of them might support the idea of a European constitutional convention, yet a secret negotiation, followed by a less than fully representative convention, would be unacceptable even to most of them.

These issues are far too important to be debated "discretely and informally", rather than democratically and publicly.

Jack Lang compares his proposed convention to the late 18th-century Convention of Philadelphia, which created the Constitution of the United States. The American Constitution is much more democratic than anything Europe yet has. The European constitution, as it has emerged so far, is largely bureaucratic. In the United States, the President is elected by all the people; the European Union has no President, but the President of the Commission is appointed by the governments. Both the United States and Europe have an appointed Supreme Court and Central Bank; these are non-democratic bodies of extensive political powers. Europe has a Parliament of limited powers, whose membership is largely determined by the less than democratic party list system. The United States has a much more powerful Congress, of two houses whose membership is ultimately determined by the fully democratic system of party primaries.

The people of Europe cannot dismiss the Government of the European Union; the American people can and regularly do dismiss their Presidents, and change control of either or both Houses of Congress. Even on the most important matters, such as the transfer of powers from the European Union to the European Union, it is not customary to consult the European people. Only three of the countries of the European Union — France, Denmark and Ireland — had a popular referendum on the Maastricht treaty.

The refusal of a British referendum on Maastricht was an insult to democracy, for which the old Conservative Government and the Labour Opposition shared responsibility. In his important pamphlet on *The Creation and Destruction of EMU*, Walter Elst quotes Bismarck's view of universal suffrage as "government of a house by its nursery. But you can do anything with children." After 1945, under strong American influence, the individual nations of the new Europe rebuilt their constitutions on democratic principles. Democracy replaced Fascism in Italy, the Vichy Government in France; the Nazi regime in Germany and eventually the Franco regime in Spain. All 15 members of the European Union, as individual nations, are democracies. But the European Union itself is not; it has been bureaucratic from the beginning, and it has not become significantly less bureaucratic as time has passed.

In the unlikely event that Europe decided to have an elected President, to redress the democratic deficit, who might it be? Not a German for the first time — Chancellor Kohl is too old and the voters would fear German power.

Not a man of the Right — European politics is still swinging towards centrist Social Democrats; able to speak good English, the first language of one section of the electorate, and the second language in the other nations; fluent in at least one other major language, preferably French; bridging the Catholic-Protestant divide, while appealing to Christian voters in all countries; under 50, to represent the Europe of youth; with charismatic electioneering skills and a strong power base at home. Whose face swells up as the most likely to be the first elected President of the European Union if Jack Lang ever gets his European Philadelphia? None other than that of Britain's favourite son, our very own George Washington. Blair. Might that not be yet another triumph for the dreaded Anglo-Saxons?

Fast Lady

THE macho world of powerboat racing is in a spin. Fiona Countess of Arran is to come out of retirement for this weekend's world cup at Cowes. She is 79. Lady Arran once drove offshore powerboats so fast that onlookers would remark that they appeared to be flying. She

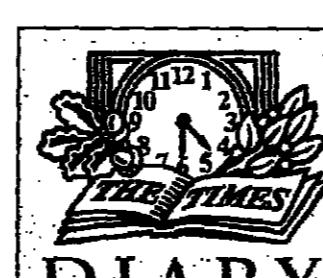


Lady Arran: water sport

set a string of records, including being the first woman to maintain a speed of 100mph for the length of Windermere.

Lady Arran hung up her lifejacket almost a decade ago and in recent years has been fighting Parkinson's disease. However, she tired of sitting watching the wallabies trim the verges at her Hertfordshire home and wanted to see some action again. Accompanied only by a navigator, she will take the wheel of her boat, *Hopscotch*, at the National Express Cowes Classic. Depending on how she feels, she will compete in either a 60-mile circuit of the Isle of Wight, or the 36-mile and 90-mile races that comprise the Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat World Cup.

"I got so bored with doing nothing I thought I would go boat racing again. It's a bit of enjoyment," she breezes. "It would be nice if it's calm and flat. I've seen a bit of rough and been turned over



once or twice. The nice thing about the sea is that anything can happen."

Lady Arran, who took her son, the Earl of Arran, and his family for a very wet practice run the other day, seems to have a slightly different concept of speed from other people. "Oh we won't be going very fast at all, just 50 miles per hour."

New image

LATEST to join the ranks of British magazine editors is snapper-by-royal-appointment, the Earl of

Snowdon, who has been asked to edit an edition of *Country Life* in November. "It's terribly exciting," says Snowdon, who has already drawn up dummy proofs in the office at his West London home. "I've been told to stay within a budget, but otherwise I can do whatever I like. I've always had a soft spot for *Country Life* since they published one of my photographs in 1951." Regular readers should brace themselves for an editorial shake-up. "It will just be one delicious surprise," he says.

Cover story

AS swarms of Oasis fans get excited about the band's new album released today, Pringle-clad members of a country club in Hertfordshire are bracing themselves for an invasion. The cover of *Be Here Now* features Stock's Hotel, in Aldbury, near Tring, which used to be a rockers' hangout when it was owned by the *Playboy* tycoon Victor Lownes. Now it is home to corporate conferences, and lots of hairy Oasis fans will be welcome only if

they are prepared to pay £120 a night for a room. "We are very jealous of our privacy here," says Stock's chairman Neil List. Nevertheless, the hotel is planning to market the bedroom where Liam and Patsy stayed in a similar way to the four-poster honeymoon suite at the Crown Hotel, in Amersham. It was there that Hugh Grant and Andie MacDowell took a tumble in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. The room is booked up for years ahead.

• August has brought no respite from humiliation for Michael Howard, the Shadow Foreign Secretary. In June he had to contend with the criticisms of Ant Widdecombe, the former Prison Minister, who accused him of having "something of the night" in his personality. Believing him this month is Florence Amess, aged five, daughter of the Tory MP David Amess. When Widdecombe presented her with a black Labrador puppy this week, she declared to her father's delight: "I'm going to call it Michael."

Mail shot

ROSS BENSON, who is parting company with *The Express* after 24 years, is understood to be on the verge of signing up with the paper's arch rival, the *Daily Mail*. Insiders are saying that his new job as a feature writer will be rather less ex-

citing than the roving role he latterly enjoyed at *The Express*. Certainly it will be less glamorous than running the *Diary*, which he did for many years. Most interesting to watch will be the relationship between the magnificently coiffed Benson and balding Nigel Dempster, with whom he had many spats in print when the two were rival diarists. "I will treat him with kid gloves and welcome him with a caviar and lobster lunch," says Dempster. "He is no longer a

• There is an endearing realism about the cast of George Bernard Shaw's comedy *Misalliance*, which opened on Tuesday night at the Chichester Festival Theatre. Playing Hypatia, the daughter of a Leeds underwear manufacturer, is Harriet Woolfitt. Her credentials? She is the daughter of Stanley Woolfitt, also a Leeds underwear manufacturer. The link never occurred to me until I had got the role and Dad pointed it out," Harris says.

P.H.S.



ARAFAT'S TWO FACES

The weak politician and the covert warrior

Israel's already stormy political horizon darkened dramatically yesterday. Israel retaliated against Hezbollah rocket barrages on Galilee with its biggest air strike on Lebanon in 16 months, cutting electricity to Sidon and, putting the 1996 accord that ended Israel's last Lebanon offensive to its toughest test to date. In Gaza, it was Yasser Arafat who turned up the political pressure, by embracing leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad in a "national unity meeting".

The difference between these two incidents is that while Israel insists that it acted only under extreme provocation and that its aim is to return peace to the Lebanese frontier, Mr Arafat's action was calculated to inflame. It would have been so at any time, but in the wake of the lethal suicide bomb attacks in Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda marketplace, the Palestinian leader has been under intense and wholly legitimate pressure to denounce terrorist activity.

The question is why this master of gesture politics has chosen instead to recall the intifada years and declare, before such an audience, that "all options are open". Mr Arafat's spokesman denied that this was a call for violence, only a declaration that Palestinians must confront Israel "in whatever way they could". The implied distinction will be undetectable to most Palestinians, and invisible to most Israelis.

One possible explanation is that Mr Arafat senses that a public act of defiance is necessary for political survival, so steeply has popular support for him been declining among Palestinians; and even that it is the more necessary because in practice, he sees no alternative to tighter co-operation with Israel and America on security matters. This was, in other words, a bit of tactical weaving by a weak politician, under fire both for his administration's corruption and human rights abuses and for the miserable failure of the halting negotiations with Israel to improve Palestinians' lives.

Mr Arafat was on this reading, politically on the ropes before the Jerusalem bomb, standing accused by his own people of

mishadministration and cronyism so flagrant that nearly half the Palestinian Authority budget had disappeared into the pockets of an exploitative few. Israel's iron response to the bombings gave him an opportunity to deflect the blame, and he has seized it.

The other possibility is, of course, that while Mr Arafat insists that he will not tolerate lawlessness any more than he will bend under Israeli pressure, he remains ambivalent about the legitimacy of the "armed struggle" that Israelis live with as terrorism. Four years after he and Yitzhak Rabin shook hands at the White House, he has still not dispelled that element of doubt.

His police took a tough stance at one point

against Hamas terrorists, but some of those convicted escaped jail with suspicions ease and over a hundred have been released. If, today, he rejects Binyamin Netanyahu's angry demand that he arrest known extremists, "collect their guns and dismantle their bomb factories" and vows to stand by "our brethren", it is not clear whether he does so because he dares not act or because he still sees the bomb as a weapon of diplomacy. That is what Israel now has to test.

Reading Mr Arafat's lips has always been less rewarding than watching his feet. If his officials, however quietly, set to work within the trilateral security framework with Israel and America recently drawn up by the US special envoy, Dennis Ross, Israel should then address some genuine Palestinian grievances. Joblessness ranks high among these: a good reason for Mr Netanyahu to reopen the borders to Palestinian workers as soon as Israeli intelligence judges it safe. He should immediately render to the Palestinian Authority \$46 million in tax revenues legally owed by Israel. This was an unwise retaliatory measure which gives credence to Palestinian claims to be the victims of "collective punishment". Mr Arafat's rhetoric will harden Israel against concessions; but it is in Israel's interests to lower the misery index which has helped Hamas to raise its level of support in the West Bank and Gaza to a deeply troubling 25 per cent.

BOOMERS AND BUSTERS

Today's toddlers may bear the biggest pension burden of all

When the 1947 baby boom caught planners by surprise, prefabricated classrooms had to house the extra 100,000 infant school children of an additional year of secondary school. The second baby boom, from 1961 to 1971 — happened more gradually, allowing educationists to cope. But are policy-makers thinking hard enough about the longer-term future of these people? A new study, *Baby Boomers: Ageing in the 21st Century*, from Age Concern, predicts that retirement for today's twenty- to thirtysomethings could be precarious unless they start planning for it now.

For their parents' generation, life was comparatively secure. Though born into an age of austerity, during and after the War, they could look forward to high employment and lifetime jobs with predictable promotions. The nurturing embrace of the cradle-to-grave welfare state protected them against the vicissitudes of life. In old age, they were likely to have both a spouse and children to help to care for them.

People born in the 1960s, while they were reared in an age of prosperity, entered the labour market at a time of recession. Technological change and global competition have only made employment more insecure. No longer are there jobs for life, and neither the employer nor the State is likely to take on a paternalistic role.

If members of this generation have to fend for themselves at work, they are also increasingly likely to have to do so at home. A higher proportion will remain single, or, if married, will divorce. Many fewer will have

children, and those who do will have fewer children. Of today's old and infirm people, 92 per cent seek help from relatives. But when the baby boomers become old and frail, their daughters (for women tend to take on the responsibility) are more likely to be working full-time and unable to help.

Altogether, there will be a much higher number of retired people compared with the working population expected to support them, not just because of the 1960s boom in births, but because of the relatively small size of succeeding generations. By 2020, there will be six people over retirement age for every ten of working age: in 1991, the ratio was just three to ten. That suggests not just fewer carers, but fewer taxpayers willing to fund the greater demands on the NHS and long-term care of the elderly.

The picture is not entirely bleak, for this baby-boom generation is more likely to have second pensions, either occupational or private, and own a house. They may be able to afford to pay for more care out of their own pockets. But they will also have experienced more fragmented employment than their parents, with greater emphasis on temporary, freelance and part-time work.

This will be a generation reared on high expectations and an awareness of consumer rights. By 2021, the proportion of the electorate that is retired will have risen from a quarter to a third. If they manage to capture the political agenda and achieve higher public spending on the old funded by taxes, it could be their children, the toddlers of today, who bear the biggest burden of all.

DEBT OF HONOUR

Montserrat deserves more than a gunboat and food parcels

The Government may have sent a gunboat to the Caribbean island of Montserrat but there is precious little else Palmerstonian about its response to the plight of British subjects there. For the thousands on Montserrat whose homes have been consumed by the volcanic eruption on the island the support from the Government responsible for their welfare has been feeble. The \$41.5 million spent so far is a drop in the Atlantic Ocean.

The inhabitants of Montserrat do not even need to think back to Palmerston to feel aggrieved. Only 15 years ago a task force was dispatched and a Government's life hazarded to safeguard the future of the Falkland Islanders. Now, a different Government looks to the copybook headings, sends a ship but cannot give the guarantees its dependants need. One does not need to be an imperial romantic, simply a believer in plain dealing and the debt of honour, to find the Government's response inadequate.

The inhabitants of Montserrat are British dependants, the moral responsibility of ministers as much as the citizens of Burnley or Belfast. Indeed, our responsibility for their welfare is arguably greater given the unhappy British Nationality Act of 1981 which denied them, and the citizens of Hong Kong among others, the right freely to settle in the country which colonised them. The volcano which devastated the island earlier this year has left only an enclave at all habitable and rendered the island as a whole

uninhabitable. Even if individuals were inclined to stay in that quarter to the north that is deemed safe, the threat of future eruptions would make such a course foolhardy.

The only guarantee of security that the people of Montserrat can have is an assurance that their needs will be met on a neighbouring island without incurring the resentment of those kind enough to take them. Such an assurance will need to be underwritten by Britain. No such assurance has yet been given.

The Government is offering to evacuate all those who wish to leave. But, without a guarantee of a basic income or grant along the lines of £30,000 or so per family requested by the Montserrat Chief Minister, many are understandably reluctant to go. What assurance do they have that when they are shipped to neighbouring Antigua or Barbuda they will not be left there without adequate support? These island nations are eager to assist but they do not have the resources to absorb thousands of refugees. Unless Britain is prepared to provide greater financial support to build homes, equip hospitals and help resettlement, then tension and poverty will replace volcanic eruption as the curse of Montserrat's people.

The planned pop concert in the spirit, though not on the scale, of Live Aid is a noble gesture. But Montserrat is not a foreign country fit for food parcels. It is British soil and British ministers should not need pop stars to shame them into doing their duty.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Appeal for policy rethink on coal

From the Director General of the Confederation of United Kingdom Coal Producers

Sir, The Energy Minister, John Battle, expressed regret today over the closure of RJB Mirning's Astford pit (reports, August 19) — and promised that Government would act to support domestic producers. This is encouraging news indeed, and is the first indication of government support for our indigenous coal industry since their election.

Coal, together with nuclear power and gas, should be a cornerstone and equal partner in a policy which will ensure we make the best long-term use of all our energy resources. Our reserves of coal remain considerable compared with the currently abundant but short-term availability of gas. New gas finds will not be in the shallow waters around our coast, and therefore will be more expensive. By maintaining existing markets for coal, we have sufficient reserves to last for generations to come.

The EU forecasts that by the year 2020, the UK will be reliant on foreign suppliers for 45 per cent of its energy. Our gas will be supplied from the less politically stable countries of the former Soviet Union, the Middle East and North Africa.

To allow such a development is inconsistent with promoting an energy policy based on diversity, security and sustainability. It is not too late to stop the plug being pulled on Britain's coal industry and to make the changes necessary to ensure we make good use of our rich coal reserves within an integrated energy policy and environmental framework.

The technology exists and is being used in other countries to burn coal cleanly; a similar investment now in the UK will be an investment in the future of our children for whom energy resources will be an increasingly critical issue.

Yours faithfully,
GERRY A. MOUSLEY,
Director General,
Confederation of UK Coal Producers,
Confederation House,
Thornes Office Park,
Denby Dale Road,
Wakefield, West Yorkshire.

August 19.

From Mrs Pamela Ross

Sir, There are two factors which do not seem to have been taken into consideration in all the deliberations about the closure of Astford mine and the future of coal in Britain.

The first is the limit on the amount of coal which can be imported through British ports, which means that there will always be a minimum requirement for home-produced coal. The other is that it takes a considerable length of time to develop a coalmine — ten years or more. In the long term, when gas has run out, more coal will be needed. If the deep mines have been closed, there will be no experienced workforce or management available to produce it.

This Government needs a long-term energy policy which includes a place for the coal industry. This should be formulated as soon as possible to protect the country's coal reserves for our future needs.

Yours faithfully,
PAMELA ROSS (Regional Councillor (Energy and Utilities Section), GMB),
Bank House, Market Place,
Cawood, Selby, North Yorkshire.

August 19.

From Mr David Norris

Sir, Perhaps one incentive which Mrs C. M. Potter (letter, August 18) should take into account when assessing the value of public transport is safety. Trains are much safer than cars.

Perhaps the media should publish a weekly summary of casualties caused by travelling by rail, air, public road transport and private car, allowing us to appreciate the relative risks.

The premium paid is surely worth the safety of Mrs Potter's daughter and granddaughter.

Yours truly,
DAVID NORRIS,
Blackhorn, Buckhurst Lane,
Wadhurst, East Sussex.

August 18.

From Dr D. H. Sharp

Sir, Mrs C. M. Potter makes the common but cardinal error of equating the cost of using her car with the minimum marginal cost — that of fuel used.

This marginal cost is about 9p per mile, which would cost for the return journey from Reading to Guildford — say 32 miles — about £4.70, which is indeed less than one third of her rail fare.

In contrast, the total, real cost per mile, as assessed by a popular car magazine, ranges from about 33p for a Ford Escort to about 50p for a Saab 900. My district council allows me to claim 43.5p per mile, as a councillor, and this figure is approved by the district auditor. Thus the real cost of her journey would have been about £2.22.

Yours faithfully,
D. H. SHARP,
Greenhill House,
Shorham Road,
Oxford, Sevenoaks, Kent.

August 18.

Sweating it out as the dew falls and temperatures rise

From Mr Peter J. Camp

Sir, If the Meteorological Office wishes to produce a "comfort index" combining the effects of temperature and humidity (letters, August 16 and 19) it should contact its colleagues at the World Meteorological Organisation or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. These two bodies jointly produced a credit-card sized card for distribution to those attending the Olympic Games in Atlanta last year.

By comparing air temperature with relative humidity the table on the card indicates the "apparent temperature". For example, when the air temperature is 84F and the relative humidity is 40 per cent the apparent temperature decreases to 83F. However, if the air temperature is 84F but the relative humidity is 80 per cent the apparent temperature increases to 94F.

The effects are more spectacular at the higher air temperature. With an air temperature of 94F and relative humidity at 80 per cent the apparent temperature is 129F.

Yours faithfully,
PETER J. CAMP,
Rosewood House,
Wanborough Lane,
Cranleigh, Surrey.

August 19.

From Mr James Denson

Sir, I quote the following from the 1994 edition of *The Guinness Book of Records*:

Humidity and discomfort: Human comfort or discomfort depends not merely on temperature alone, but on the combination of temperature, humidity, radiation and wind speed.

The United States Weather Bureau uses a "Temperature-Humidity Index" which equals two-fifths of the sum of the dry and wet bulb thermometer readings plus 15. A THI of 82.2 has been twice recorded in Death Valley, California — on 17th July 1966

(110F and 21 per cent) and on 12 August 1970 (117F and 37 per cent).

Yours faithfully,
JAMES DENSON,
8 Lyon Avenue,
New Milton, Hampshire.
jedens@nort.ac.uk

From Mr R. J. Turner

Sir, Professor Maurice Crosland (letter, August 11) wonders why the Meteorological Office does not give quantitative data relating to humidity. I suggest the answer is implicit in the piece by Simon Jenkins on the facing page, headed "A-level students rightly prefer soft subjects to dry and useless sciences".

I am sure the Meteorological Office doesn't bother because it realises that only a tiny minority would have any clue as to what it was talking about.

In this present spell of hot and humid weather I have heard several people express astonishment at the very heavy dews which occur each morning. When I explain that because the relative humidity is so high the slightest overnight cooling results in the air being cooled below its dew-point temperature and thus condensation occurs, they look at me as if I had asked them in Serbo-Croat for directions to the nearest public convenience.

Yours faithfully,
R. TURNER,
92 Brook Lane,
Warsash, Southampton, Hampshire.
August 18.

Solutions to Africa's political and financial problems

From Mr David Lort-Phillips

Sir, Matthew Parrish's gloomy view of the prospects for Africa (articles, August 8 and 15) has reopened an important debate (letters, August 16).

It is not just the particular horrors of Rwanda, Zaire and Angola. Of more enduring importance are the unseen miseries of millions of Africans, many of whose national governments, and ruling élites seem to have given up on them. The tragedy is that so many, given a modicum of good government and the right kind of international help, can do so much on their own behalf.

Having worked as a district officer in rural Nigeria in the late Sixties, originally through VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas), and again in the late Eighties on a World Bank project, my heart responds to the would-be optimists; but my head recognises that much of what Parrish says is true.

What principally depressed me, on my return to Nigeria, was not declining living standards (many were materially far better off) but falling morale and a lack of faith in their own or indeed any system of government.

This contrasted starkly with the dedication and faith in the future shown by many of my young colleagues in the administration in the

1960s. I recall urging them, when my wife and I left Nigeria in 1967, to bring their best talents into local government, thus creating an infrastructure to secure people's basic needs, against the time when national governments failed them, as they have consistently done ever since.

If Matthew Parrish's Doomsday scenario is not to be realised it is at that level that the international community must apply encouragement and help.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LORT-PHILLIPS,
Knowles Farm,
Lawrenny, Pembrokeshire.
August 17.

From the High Commissioner for Kenya

Sir, Your editorial, "Light in dark places" (August 18), makes a rather tenuous argument that corruption is unavoidable in any but the best-run and well-established democracies. In fact the former socialist (communist) countries had near zero corruption until capitalism and democracy were introduced in the recent past.

This contrasted starkly with the dedication and faith in the future shown by many of my young colleagues in the administration in the

1960s. I recall urging them, when my wife and I left Nigeria in 1967, to bring their best talents into local government, thus creating an infrastructure to secure people's basic needs, against the time when national governments failed them, as they have consistently done ever since.

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From Mr Bill Linton

Sir, In the second of his articles on Africa, Matthew Parrish likens the struggles of African countries

Big Brother plan for safer air travel

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

A DRIVE to halve the number of air accidents is to be launched by the International Air Transport Association. Fears about safety are growing as demand for air travel increases and new airlines are encouraged to start up.

Experts are worried that many of the new small airlines — especially from developing countries — will buy old jets sold off by the bigger airlines modernising their fleets, without the technical expertise to maintain them properly.

Now Iata is recommending that big international airlines should work closely with their small, less experienced rivals, acting as "buddies", to help them install, monitor and run safety equipment and procedures. The proposals follow a recent spate of air crashes including that of a Korean Air 747 on the Pacific island of Guam with the loss of 227 lives earlier this month.

Pierre Jeanniot, the Director-General of Iata, wants more than 200 members of the

association to introduce the proposals as a matter of urgency. "I am never happy with air safety. It can always be improved," he says.

However, some aviation industry experts are questioning the move, which, they claim, would mean greater bureaucracy and would inevitably lead to smaller airlines, especially in the Third World, demanding more money to provide the additional safety services.

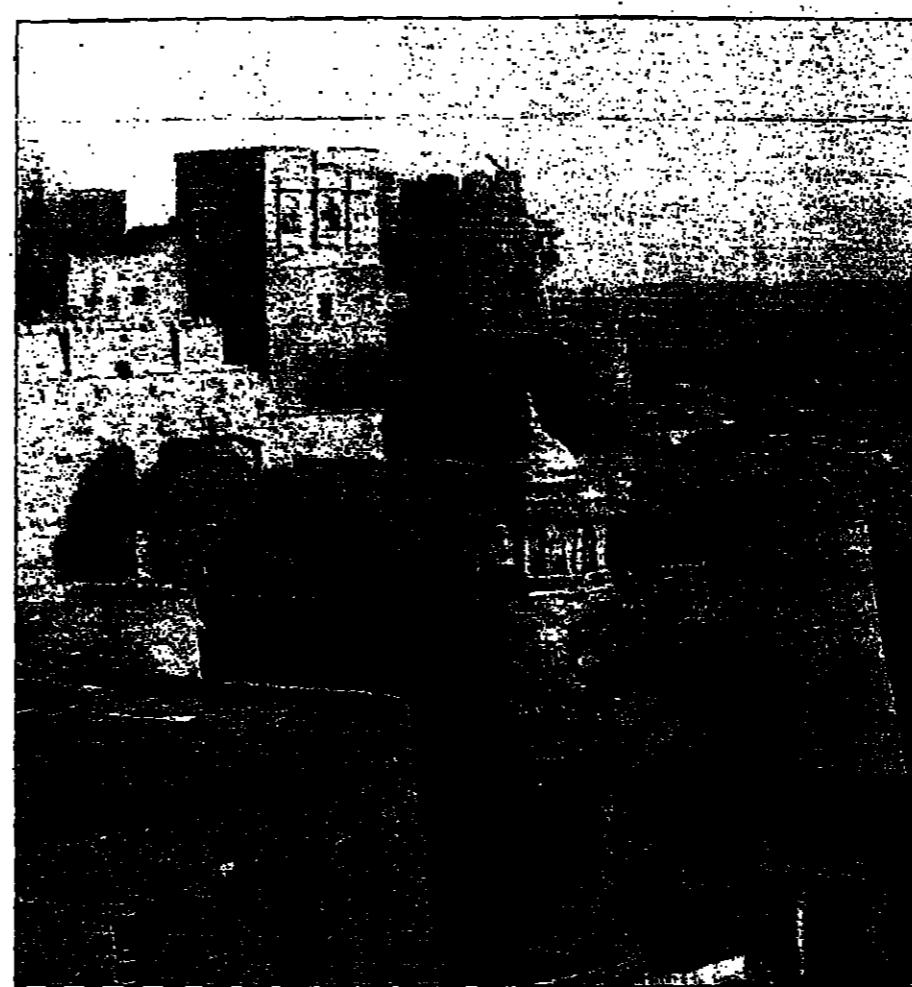
The ideal mentor is one which has common experiences with the organisation being monitored. Thus the best airline to help a small South American airline with safety concerns should be another small South American airline which is doing better," says *Flight International* magazine.

According to Iata, at the end of last year there were 11,711 Western-built jet aircraft in commercial service. They were operated by 650 airlines, made 18 million take-offs and

flew 30 million hours. Out of all these, there were 19 accidents, 12 involving deaths. The fatal crashes killed 1,189 passengers and 97 crew compared with only 382 and 39 crew in 1995.

Iata is also pressing for:

- More modern "black box" flight recorders and better analysis of their results.
- A faster way of alerting airlines around the world to safety problems.
- Improved procedures to prevent crashes when landing.
- A system of monitoring safety performance which would involve everyone in the airline, from engineering to the flight deck and the boardroom.
- Shared information about problem "human factors", such as the relationships between crew members which can lead to lower safety.
- A readiness among manufacturers, safety authorities and airlines to make amendments if necessary.



Tourism to Rajasthan, India's most popular destination, has been hit by price rises

Indian summers given overhaul

BY CATHERINE CHETWYND

SWINGING tax rises on luxury hotels combined with a sharp increase in air fares and a doubling of the cost of a visa is threatening the predicted boom in India's tourist trade. In the wake of India's 50th anniversary of independence this month, tourism chiefs had hoped for a big leap in the number of foreign visitors.

"But Bombay has already become the world's most expensive city for business travellers, with Delhi second, after tax rises forced up the price of a luxury hotel room by as much as 20 per cent in several states, including the most popular, Rajasthan.

This, combined with a rise in air fares, has resulted in a distinct cooling of interest in India. A doubling in visa prices from £13 for a three-month visa to £26 for a six-month one has also added to the cost.

In an attempt to avoid putting up prices overall, tour operators have renegotiated

stated hotel rates and reprinted brochures with shorter, or cheaper sightseeing trips.

"We renegotiated everything," says Philip Griswold of Cox & Kings. "As a result, we have managed to bring down prices overall by around 12 per cent."

Paul Artizori, Hayes and Jarvis product manager, feels prices will come down again. "Corporate traffic to India has fallen recently," he says. "So retailers are now keen to negotiate."

Prices in the new brochure are 10 to 15 per cent higher but the programme has been broadened to include unusual destinations such as Sikkim and Gujarat, as well as the classical tours featured in the original brochure.

Sue Biggs, deputy managing director of Kironi, says India remains an attractive destination. "And £69 for a seven-night tour including air fares, accommodation, transfers and sightseeing, is still good value," she adds.

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Foreign Office issues warning to British travellers about 'indiscriminate' violence in Mombasa

Tourists cancel trips in fear of Kenya unrest

By TONY DAWE

WORRIED British tourists are cancelling holidays to Kenya and switching to other countries after tough warnings from the Foreign Office this week about unrest in the African state.

Thomson, the leading tour operator, said yesterday that 14 holidaymakers who had planned to fly from Manchester to Mombasa on Tuesday night had cancelled their trips while Kuoni said it is offering clients flying to Kenya in the next week the opportunity to cancel at no cost.

Somak Holidays said that it had delayed a return flight to Manchester from Mombasa yesterday so that all passengers could travel to the airport in daylight.

The Foreign Office has warned against travelling after dark even though the violence which has claimed at least 33 lives in the Mombasa area in the past week, has not yet been directed at tourists. Officials say that violence "could become indiscriminate at very short notice" and advise travellers to be "particularly vigilant and keep in close touch with their tour operators, hotels and local authorities".

A series of attacks last month and newspaper and television pictures of a bishop



injured when government troops stormed a church where people had taken refuge failed to deter holidaymakers.

However, the violence in the Mombasa area, where thousands head for beach holidays, has caused greater concern.

A Thomson spokeswoman said yesterday: "We are notifying holidaymakers who are about to travel of the latest situation, giving them a copy of the Foreign Office advice and allowing them to make an informed decision about whether to continue with their plans. Those who cancel their plans are offered their money back but the majority are going ahead with their holidays."

At Kuoni, a spokeswoman said: "We are offering clients travelling this week and next the opportunity to cancel at no cost or change to a different holiday if they wish. Those already in Mombasa have been updated with the latest

Kenyan riot police apprehend a looter in Nairobi, which has been affected by violent protests

information but no one has asked to move and the situation seems to be getting quieter."

Ash Sofat, the managing director of Somak Holidays, which flies 32,000 British tourists to Kenya every year, said: "We are exercising caution and following Foreign Office advice by arranging transfers to and from the airport in daylight and warning travellers about wandering around after dark or wearing excessive jewellery.

British Airways Holidays said it was in constant contact with the Foreign Office but is

continuing to operate tours and excursions as usual because they do not go near the affected areas.

The violence is certain to damage Kenya's tourist industry, which has been attracting an increasing number of visitors. To avoid overcrowding in the most popular beach and safari areas, tourism officials have been planning to make remote game reserves and beaches more accessible but some are in areas that tourists are now advised to avoid.

The British Tourist Authority (BTA) set out to do just that 18 months ago. Its research has resulted in a small publication called *Living Britain* — a guide to understanding the characteristics of the geographic brands of Britain, London, Scotland, England and Wales.

It contained some pretty odd conclusions — that travel is driven by "hedonism, adventure and Zen" — as well as some of numbing, self-evident clichés.

The report was sent to designers with instructions to use it as

a blueprint to create a logo which could be used on BTA

newspaper and advertising

throughout the world.

At the moment a very simple bold title, "Britain", surrounded by a wavy Union Flag is used. This is not an image most Britons ever see, appearing only in travel offices abroad. But when a middle-ranking BTA official made an unguarded remark which was interpreted — wrongly — as

Who can argue with that?



Protests over new hotel bus service

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

ELEVEN hotels near Heathrow airport have rejected pleas to stop charging guests for coach journeys to and from all four flight terminals.

The hotels scrapped their individual courtesy bus services nearly two months ago amid protests from business travellers, travel agents and even the airport operator BAA. They were replaced by the Hotel Hoppa Service, which now charges a flat rate for airport coach journeys and links several hotels in one circular service.

provided by Speedlink with timetables structured to ensure that no one has to wait for more than 15 minutes.

But the Guild of Business Travel Agents is still fighting the decision which it says is "another exploitation of the frequent business traveller". "The amount may be small in itself but the point is that it's a cost where there was none before," says Tony Hughes, the chairman of the GBTA. BAA says it has "expressed

concern" at the charges and asked the association to reconsider.

Paula Barten, the general manager of hotels for the Carlton Waggonit Travel chain of agencies, said that the last thing a business traveller needed was to search for loose change on arrival at Heathrow. "Travellers are being caught out, as some queue for the bus without having pre-purchased their sterling and others save insufficient change for their return journey and departure tax."



Waving the flag and proud of it

HARVEY ELLIOTT

meaning that the flag was to be dropped altogether by the BTA, the reaction was immediate and extreme.

David Quaraby, the chairman of the BTA, was forced to give a formal written assurance that the flag would still be in the logo but of a different design and more stylised to reflect the modern image of Britain.

His protestations were either ignored by those who had set the hare running, or simply not believed. Callers jammed the switchboard of the BTA headquarters to protest. "I've never taken so many calls from people who began by saying: 'I fought in the war you know...'" said one bemused employee.

It was akin to the reaction of shareholders to the new designs on the tailfins of BA's aircraft.

Outrage. We will have to wait until September 22 to see what the new design really does contain. But I am assured by everyone who has seen it that the flag is there.

The booklet is odd, however. "Geographical brands are only part of the story," it muses. "Activities and events are also essential parts of any visit, satisfying one or other or a multiple of hedonism, adventure and Zen."

Britain is "an island of contrasts", Scotland "a land of fire and stone", Wales "a land of nature and legend" and England "tea in a quaint country village, cricket on a village green...".

"We must remember that Britain is not just Beefeaters and the Tower of London and it is important that we reflect all that is contemporary, stylish and inventive too," Mr Quaraby says.

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NEWS

RAF checks UN tour expenses

■ Up to six RAF officers are facing courts martial after an investigation by air force police into alleged expenses violations by airmen serving in Italy as part of the Bosnian operation.

The officers, mostly squadron leaders, the equivalent of major in the Army, will face charges next month when the six-month inquiry has been completed. A number of other officers are to be disciplined.

Page 1

Tory widow comforts Labour MP

■ The widow of a Tory MP who committed suicide has come to the aid of Robert Wareing, a Labour MP who was so upset by his suspension from the party that he described himself as being suicidal and asked for an urgent meeting with Nick Brown, the Chief Whip. Instead, salt was rubbed into the wound when a junior whip told him he was suspended.

Page 1

Troops foil coup

British troops took unprecedented action to foil a possible coup against Biljana Plavsic, the Republika Srpska president. They took control of all police stations in Banja Luka and seized weapons and explosives.

Page 1

Sales boom

High Street sales rose by 6.5 per cent in the year to the end of July, the fastest rate since mid-1988, fuelled by building society windfalls.

Page 1

Young scourge

Danny May, 11, who has signed up with the Professional Bowls Association, is to challenge the image of crown bowls as the exclusive preserve of more senior sportsmen.

Page 1

NHS winter plan

Ministers will today announce measures to head off a crisis in the health service this winter and curb waiting lists.

Page 2

One man's weeds

Residents of Meadow End, who tend manicured lawns, claimed victory when a court ordered their neighbour to mow his overgrown weeds claimed to be a haven for wildlife.

Page 3

Province calm

The IRA ceasefire, month old, has given Northern Ireland probably its most peaceful four weeks since the present Troubles began 29 years ago.

Page 4

Lucky Strike revs up for Formula One

■ British American Tobacco is planning to spend up to £250 million on buying a Formula One team to challenge the Government's proposed ban on tobacco sponsorship of sport. BAT is keen to promote Lucky Strike — one of the biggest selling brands in the Third World. A team carrying this name could escape the sponsorship ban in this country.

Page 1

Modern studies

More GCSE students are taking exams in business studies, computing and drama, while interest in traditional subjects such as the sciences, geography and history have slumped.

Page 6

Fatal dive

A boy, 15, died after diving into the sea from cliffs along the South Tyneside coast. The new craze began during the hot weather. He is believed to have hit underwater rocks.

Page 7

Islamic coalition

Yassir Arafat sought out militant Islamic groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad to forge a common front against Israel.

Page 9

Singapore attacked

Ben Jeayaram, Singapore's veteran opposition leader, accused its leaders of trying to drive him out of parliament by pursuing several libel cases against him.

Page 12

Italian outrage

Italians were outraged after vandals damaged a 16th-century Bernini fountain in Rome; leading to calls to deploy the army to protect statues and fountains.

Page 11

Montserrat protest

Hundreds of Montserratians marched on the offices of British Governor Frank Savage, demanding to know details of an evacuation plan and compensation payments.

Page 13



Farmers meet at the Priddy Sheep Fair in Somerset. The event, in its 650th year, began as a funfair where gypsies used to trade horses

BUSINESS

Economy: Retail sales surged again in July, although the rate of growth has slowed down since the boom month of June.

Page 44

White elephant: Point West, one of the largest white elephants left by the 1980s property boom collapse, is to be completed a decade later. First plans emerged to turn the former West London air terminal into flats.

Page 23

Electricity: A threatened rebellion by electricity suppliers has forced the regulator to scale down planned price cuts.

Page 23

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Page 26

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Page 26

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Page 23

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